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The Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

THE CHAT

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Briefs for the Files, Fall 2002

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2002 Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.,
Chairman
Keith E. Camburn
Susan Campbell

Samuel Cooper
Richard J. Davis
Eric V. Dean
Wayne K. Forsythe

This report enumerates the decisions of the Carolina Bird Club's North Carolina Bird Records Committee during 2002. During the past year, Keith Camburn and Wayne Forsythe were added to the Committee, replacing Roger McNeill and Simon Thompson. Committee voting information is referenced in parentheses (i.e., year report received, reference number).

Accepted as valid

The reported identification is judged to be accurate, and the bird is judged to be of wild origin. Photographs and/or written descriptions of all accepted records have been deposited in the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) (02-05). One was observed by unknown persons in early July 2002 in a ditch at South Nags Head, Dare County. Jeff Lewis made the report public, and it was subsequently seen by many observers for at least a week. The Committee accepted photos taken by Will Cook and a description from Harry LeGrand. This is the first accepted record for the state, and the species is placed directly on the Official List. There was a previous mention of this species, a breeding-plumaged adult at Pea Island in mid-May 1973, in American Birds (31:979). However, no other details were ever seen by this or a previous Committee, and that report was thus considered as an Unaccepted Sighting by this Committee in 1990 (N.C. Bird Records Committee 1990). If a description of this 1973 report surfaces, the Committee will review the new information.

Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*) (02-03). A winter adult was seen by Paul Sykes at Pea Island, Dare County, on 28 December 2001. There were no other observers, nor was a photo taken. This report was considered as inadequately documented by the Committee on a first vote and was sent for outside review. The record was then accepted on the second vote. This is the first record of the species for the state, and acceptance of the description places the species on the Provisional List. There are a handful of recent records of this Asian/Pacific species from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel in nearby Virginia. Though there has been concern about the origin of these Atlantic coast birds, the American Birding Association (2002) has accepted the species onto its list of birds in the ABA area. There were no "questionable origin" votes from the Committee.

Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) (02-04). One was first found by Bruce Smithson at Fort Fisher, New Hanover/Brunswick County on 24 November 2001. It was seen and photographed by numerous observers over the next

week. The Committee reviewed, and accepted, photographs taken by Will Cook. There are at least ten previous records of the species for the state, nearly all from the coast, and thus the species is already on the Official List. However, this is the first record that has been well documented by photos and multiple observers.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*) (02-06). An immature male was seen at a feeder of Charles and Ann Williams in Winston-Salem in December 2001, and was seen by a large number of birders through the winter. It was banded by Susan Campbell, and the Committee accepted photos taken by Campbell of the bird in the hand. This is surprisingly the fourth accepted record for this Western hummingbird, and the species is already on the Official List.

Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis* /*Empidonax occidentalis*) (02-02). An individual was discovered by Harry LeGrand and Jeff Pippen near Jordan Lake, Chatham County, on 15 January 2000. The bird, identified as a Pacific-slope Flycatcher based on calls heard, was seen by many observers for the next week. The Committee reviewed a description written by LeGrand and Pippen, photos taken by Derb Carter, and sonograms (and voice recordings) of calls taped by Will Cook. The Committee did not accept the species to Pacific-slope Flycatcher, because of the extreme difficulties in separating calls from the very similar Cordilleran Flycatcher, not surprising as the former Western Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*) was recently split into these two species. Several Committee members felt that they couldn't be absolutely sure of the identification. However, the Committee did accept Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher (i.e., the Western Flycatcher complex). This is the first record of the complex for the state, and acceptance of the photos and sonograms (along with the description) to the Western Flycatcher complex places the species pair onto the Official List. Because the bird in question was identified as a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, that species is listed first on the Official List.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) (02-08). One was found by Joshua Rose at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, Dare County, on 16 December 2001 and was subsequently seen by many birders through the winter. The Committee accepted the description provided by Rose and photographs taken by Will Cook. This species is already on the Official List, and this is the fifth accepted record. However, this is a first report for the winter season.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) (02-07). One was observed by numerous birders at Pea Island in November 2001. The Committee accepted a written description, including call notes, submitted by Ricky Davis, and several photos taken by Will Cook. Prior to this vote, the Tropical/Couch's (*T. couchii*) Kingbird complex was on the Official List, based on acceptance of a description and photos (with no voice recording) of a bird identified as a Tropical (based on calls heard) near Lake Mattamuskeet in December 1985. On this current vote, the Committee determined that the photos convincingly ruled out Couch's Kingbird. Acceptance of the 2001

record changes the Official List from Tropical/Couch's Kingbird simply to Tropical Kingbird.

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) (02-09). One was captured in a mist-netting operation at Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve, Moore County, on 27 September 2001 by Susan Campbell and Chris Helms. The bird was not photographed, but Campbell provided a written description, including measurements and weight of the bird, that was accepted by the Committee. This becomes the first accepted record of Bicknell's Thrush, a recent split from Gray-cheeked Thrush (*C. minimus*), for the state, and thus the species is placed on the Provisional List. Lee (1995) reported that a North Carolina specimen of Bicknell's Thrush exists at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington. The Committee earlier indicated that a confirmation letter from the Museum would be needed to confirm the species' presence in the state and place the species on the Official List. Such a letter has yet to be requested by the Committee. There are a handful of reports from the state of Bicknell's Thrush, not surprising in that the species nests in New England and the Canadian Maritime provinces, and winters in the West Indies and thus undoubtedly migrates regularly (in small numbers?) through North Carolina. As identification of the two species is extremely difficult, the Committee should review any and all such reports. However, the Committee has not yet seen descriptions of such reports to review.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba alba*) (02-10). An apparent immature was found by Jill Froning and Karen Bearden at Falls Lake in Wake County on 22 October 2002. The Committee reviewed the description by Ricky Davis and additional comments from Will Cook, and reviewed Will Cook's photographs. The Committee not only accepted the bird as to the full species but accepted it to the Western Europe subspecies *alba*. This was done in case of any future split of the species, and also to establish that the bird was from a European subspecies rather than from an eastern Asian subspecies (which also nests in Alaska). Thus, the White Wagtail is placed directly onto the Official List, and this is the first record for North Carolina. This Committee earlier (N.C. Bird Records Committee 1990) accepted Black-backed Wagtail (*M. lugens*) to the Official List (based on photos but no written description). That bird was mentioned in print as being of the Black-backed race of White Wagtail in Chat (46:121), but since that report was made, the Black-backed Wagtail was split off from White Wagtail as a valid species. Thus, both the White Wagtail and the Black-backed Wagtail are on the Official List of North Carolina birds.

Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*) (02-01). One was initially found by Greg Massey near Southport, Brunswick County, in early January 2002 and was seen by dozens of other birders into the spring. The Committee accepted photos by Harry Sell and text written by John Buckman and Harry LeGrand. This is the first accepted record for the state, and acceptance of photos places the species directly onto the Official List. Details from a sight report mentioned in Am. Birds (30:53) at Bodie Island on 28 November 1975 were apparently never submitted to the magazine's

regional editor nor to a Bird Records Committee. That report was thus considered as an Unaccepted Sighting by this Committee in 1990 (N.C. Bird Records Committee 1990). If a description of this 1975 report surfaces, the Committee will review the new material.

Discussion

There were no votes of reports that yielded verdicts of Unaccepted Sighting or Unaccepted Origin for the 2002 voting period. As mentioned above, the Black-tailed Gull report was sent for outside review and was accepted as valid on the second vote.

The review of reports by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee for 2002 resulted in adding four species to the North Carolina Official List. White-faced Ibis, Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher, White Wagtail, and Green-tailed Towhee have been directly added to the Official List. Tropical/Couch's Kingbird now becomes Tropical Kingbird on the Official List. The current Official List now stands (as of the end of 2002) at 439 species. Black-tailed Gull and Bicknell's Thrush have been added to the Provisional List, which now stands at 14 species. This gives a total Accepted List of 453 species. The Bicknell's Thrush was formerly considered as Unresolved. No species were elevated from the Provisional List to the Official List.

Acknowledgments

In addition to the many people named above who provided written material and photographs for the Committee to review, we thank Russ Tyndall for placing a few of the photographs on the Carolina Bird Club's website for Committee review. The Committee also wishes to thank other birders for posting photographs of rare species listed above to either the Carolinabirds mailing list or to their own personal websites. Many of these photos were likely seen and reviewed by Committee members prior to and during the voting process, though they were not strictly used in the voting. These people include Van Atkins (Green-tailed Towhee), Wayne Irvin (White-faced Ibis), Brian Murphy (Snowy Owl), Steve Shultz (White-faced Ibis, Green-tailed Towhee), Donald Stokes (Tropical Kingbird), and Mike Tove (Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher).

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Additional Notes on Bachman's Warbler

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In the spring of 2000 and 2001 sightings of Bachman's Warbler (*Vermivora bachmanii*) were reported from the Congaree Swamp National Monument in Richland County, South Carolina. In response to these reports a search for the bird was made in the spring of 2002 under the aegis of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Watson and Koches 2003). The fact that these reported sightings were some hundred miles west of the known range of this species cast immediate doubt on the likely success of any search. In fact no observations were made; yet the question of the habitat requirements of this species remains at the center of the debate about the status of North America's rarest songbird.

In the mid-1970's renewed attention was given Bachman's Warbler with the primary focus on habitat determination for this critically endangered species. Since no authenticated sightings have been made since the early 1960's (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970; Forsythe 1991), most work centered on the publications of Arthur T. Wayne. The discovery of additional source material now allows the revision of recent ideas concerning the habitat requirements of this species and provides new insight into the credibility of its chief researcher.

The habitat of Bachman's Warbler has long been regarded as heavily forested bottomland swamp (Chapman 1907; Wayne 1910; Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949; Griscom and Sprunt 1957; Chamberlain 1974). This concept was challenged by the hypothesis that Bachman's Warbler actually displayed a preference for early successional stages of vegetation (Hamel 1976; Urbston, Mudge and Lewis 1976; Marshall, Zeedyk and Evenden 1976; Hooper and Hamel 1977). Much of this new hypothesis as well as the more traditional view is based on the interpretation of the work of Arthur T. Wayne, who rediscovered the bird in South Carolina in 1901. Wayne's familiarity with this species is reflected both in his published works and in field notes which include descriptions of general and breeding habitat. His frequent references to primeval swamps, heavy hardwood timber, and deep cypress swamps have been labeled unclear and generally misleading (Urbston, Mudge, and Lewis 1976; Hamel and Hooper 1977). Since Wayne made no quantitative statements in his publications on Bachman's Warbler habitat, a reappraisal of this elusive species and its habitat based on Wayne's correspondence with contemporary ornithologists over a 26 year span, as well as other period source material, now seems appropriate.

The picture of Bachman's habitat is commonly drawn from numerous Wayne references to an area north of Charleston and 14 miles northeast of Porcher's Bluff on Fairlawn Plantation. Wayne's comments on the habitat in the area of his concentration contain mention of a very swampy situation that

was both heavily wooded and endowed with a thick understory (Wayne 1905, 1910). This has caused confusion when coupled with Wayne's admission that the area had originally been a rice field. The historical accuracy of this statement has been borne out however, and a better picture of the forest in this area has now come to light.

The last rice crop grown on Fairlawn Plantation was recorded in 1859 when 24,000 lbs. were harvested (U.S. Census 1860). Surprisingly, a crop of this size would require a cultivated area of only 6.4 to 15.4 acres (Gray 1958). Assuming that production could have continued undocumented until 1865 due to the Civil War, trees in the abandoned rice fields at the time of Wayne's initial discovery would have been between 36 and 41 years old.

The soil in the abandoned rice fields is primarily Santee clay loam, a very poorly drained hydric soil with an average depth of 0 to 1.5 feet to the water table (Miller 1971). This soil type is suited for the growth of wetland hardwood trees including bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), sweet-gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*) and spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*) (Ellerbe 1974). With a growing season in excess of 280 days, species such as sweet-gum, water oak and loblolly pine, under such fertile conditions can be expected to display rapid growth in excess of 70 feet in height (Miller 1971; U.S. Department of Agriculture 1965).

It is not difficult under these conditions to understand how Arthur Wayne wrote of "a dense forest, which in places precluded the sunlight at noon" (Wayne 1906). Those who accompanied Wayne on his searches also support such statements. In 1908 Francis Weston wrote of finding the bird "feeding on the flowers of sweet gums in high trees in swamp" (Weston 1908). Alexander Sprunt, Jr. wrote that nearby Penney Dam, a rice reserve adjacent to the area where the warbler was found, also on Fairlawn Plantation, was in large trees in 1922. As late as 1928-1929, Mrs. Essie Gregorie, another companion of Wayne and 37 years old at the time, remembered the "old rice fields in large trees in dark swamp" (Sprunt 1922; Gregorie 1979). It is clear that while Wayne and his proteges were not working in virgin timber, they were finding this rare species in an advanced, vigorous forest.

The question of habitat is further clarified by Wayne's statement that "...I never expect to see another specimen as the great swamp in which I found it breeding has been deforested by a lumbering company." (Basset 1941). Although this statement was made in 1930, Wayne also wrote as early as 1917 that "All the pine timber in I'on Swamp and the entire region adjacent to it, 9000 acres, has been completely cut out!!" (Wayne 1917). Supporting these observations is an agreement to lumber Fairlawn Plantation made in 1902. Under the terms of this agreement "All timber of every kind...ten inches in stump diameter and upwards...(will be cut)...for a period of thirty years...(Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance 1902). The inescapable conclusion drawn from this evidence is that Bachman's Warbler is highly sensitive to forest reduction.

Other types of habitat disturbance have also been recorded, although apparently with little effect. In the spring of 1918, Wayne found the swamp without water and later consumed by fire. Both of these events had no observable adverse impact on the bird. Similarly Wayne's personal activity, which included daily investigation and occasional collecting, suggests the bird's scarce, local distribution was itself an important factor (Wayne 1911).

There is no question that Bachman's Warbler has always been a rare species in South Carolina. As early as 1906 Wayne called it "excessively rare" and by 1912 he wrote, "I have known since the spring of 1910 that the birds are getting very rare" (Wayne 1906, 1912). Relentless in his pursuit, Wayne was afield daily during the breeding season and his frustration surfaced when he wrote that he had been "living at the place, but I doubt if I will ever find another nest as the area is unlimited and everywhere is suitable ..." (Wayne 1906). Wayne addressed the question of abundance on several occasions, but he believed the population was limited to only a few birds, perhaps only four or five pairs (Wayne 1911).

The unexplained cyclical disappearance of Bachman's Warbler was also noted by Wayne in 1912, when he wrote that the birds had "forsaken the swamp where I first found them in 1904, and I never expect to take another, as I covered the swamp critically with Dr. Bishop and went into new places where I had never explored before" (Wayne 1912). This mystery led to the conclusion that "Bachman's Warbler is an ancient species and is fast dying out" (Wayne 1912).

Compounding the problems of scarcity and habitat were those of location and identification. Wayne made numerous notes of the speed and energy of the bird, writing, "These birds are very hard to detect ...in fact I cannot recall a bird that moves as rapidly as Bachman's Warbler does in the breeding season" (Wayne 1905a, 1905b).

Even the birds Wayne did locate proved on occasion to be still more mysterious. One was singing the song of a Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) when he collected it, and others were in confusing plumages (Wayne 1907). Several individuals of both sexes were brighter than the Prothonotary Warbler (Wayne 1892a, 1892b). The females showed tremendous variability ranging from very pale specimens, compared by Wayne to the female Lucy's Warbler (*Vermivora luciae*), to individuals as bright as the adult male (Wayne 1892a, 1893, 1905b). Still other females were collected in partial male plumage with spotted or black throats (Wayne 1893). As if these variations were not sufficiently confusing, Wayne also collected "two females which are precisely like the adult male" (Wayne 1892a).

When considering the complexities surrounding Bachman's Warbler, both in Wayne's time and today, there are still those who will question Wayne's motives and his accuracy in recording what he saw. To those who knew him, this was unthinkable, particularly since Wayne went to great lengths to insist on accuracy and honesty among his contemporaries. Characteristically he wrote to a fellow ornithologist, "you never told a truer

sentence in your life when you say: 'No one can lie about Nature and get away with it.' This is fine and I shall remember it forever for it is the truth...I could not go to bed and sleep if I knew I had told a falsehood." (Wayne 1917). As for Wayne's conservation ethic, Alexander Sprunt wrote, "Often have I seen him stand and survey the stump of what had been a gigantic pine and say sorrowfully, "There is the work of God Almighty for a hundred years undone by two (men) with a cross-cut saw in twenty minutes." (Sprunt 1931).

In summary, it appears that the traditional view of Bachman's Warbler habitat is essentially correct and this species is indeed highly sensitive to forest reduction. Additionally, it is clear that the bird has always been rare and extremely local in distribution. Given the difficulties in detection and identification, reasonable hope remains that Bachman's Warbler may not be extinct. Additionally, while no quantitative data on this species were collected around the turn of the century, Arthur Wayne and his contemporaries did report what they found with typical Victorian thoroughness, making them preeminent ornithologists of their day.

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Hermit Thrush Nesting in North Carolina

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The Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) is a widespread breeder in northern forests in Canada and the United States. In the eastern U.S. this species is found breeding from northeastern Minnesota east through New England and New York and south to extreme northeastern New Jersey and northern Pennsylvania, with isolated populations in Ohio and West Virginia. South of Pennsylvania, the bird breeds only above 1,200 m in the Appalachians. Virginia has been regarded as the southern limit of the known breeding range, though birds are sporadically heard throughout the Tennessee side of the Great Smoky Mountains and on the higher peaks of North Carolina. Only recently have Hermit Thrushes been discovered in North Carolina during the breeding season, and there has been speculation that these birds breed in North Carolina (Jones and Donovan 1996). The first report of a singing male Hermit Thrush in North Carolina came from Roan Mountain, Mitchell County, 7 June 1979 (Potter and LeGrand 1980). It was not until 1983 that a second North Carolina observation was made: a singing male at Mount Mitchell in June (Chat 48:24). Singing was heard again in June 1984 at Mount Mitchell (Chat 50:26), and in May 1984 at Grandfather Mountain (Lee et al. 1985). Since this time, nesting season observations have been made from a number of peaks above 1460 m (4800 ft) including: Unaka Mountain, Mitchell County, 8 July 1992 (Chat 57: 84), and Polls Gap area, Haywood County 12 June 2000 (Don Henderson, pers. comm; North Carolina State Museum records). Birds continue to be found at Mount Mitchell, including seven birds heard singing 30 June 1995 (Chat 60:76);

and at Roan Mountain five birds were heard in the summer of 1997 (Chat 62:45). Other records include: one bird heard below Beech Gap, Buncombe County (4 July 1992), one collected at Roan Mountain (NCSM 15219), and one heard at a low elevation in Gorges State Park, Transylvania County in June of 2000 (Browning, NCSM record). Seven birds were heard in the Brush Fence Ridge area in late June 2001 (Gerwin and Browning, NCSM record). Also, a juvenile, suspected to be from the local population, was banded in September 1997 at Carvers Gap on Roan Mountain (Chat 62:137). Despite these multiple observations over a period of more than two decades, breeding has never been documented.

On 21 June 2001 I was conducting bird surveys on the Mountains-to-the-Sea Trail from the Big Laurel Gap Overlook towards Glassmine Falls overlook. This section of the trail skirts the edge of the Asheville Watershed in Buncombe County. On two prior visits to this spot, 18 and 19 June 2001, John Gerwin and I had heard and seen and recorded several Hermit Thrushes in this area. As I walked over Walker Knob (elevation 1658 m), I saw a Hermit Thrush singing from about 35 m off the trail. I spotted the singing male about 15 m above the ground at the edge of a tree fall gap. As I approached within 15 m, the bird stopped singing. Scanning with binoculars I located a second Hermit Thrush near the ground at the edge of the gap. The second bird had food in its bill and was making various distress calls as it watched me. I ducked behind a tree and saw this bird drop to the ground. As I moved to the location where I had seen it disappear, I flushed three Hermit Thrush fledglings as well as the adult. Two of the young birds landed in a small sapling fir and the third in a downed dead spruce. They were speckled all over, with bicolored bills and stubby tails. I looked for the nest, since the birds had flushed from within 2 meters of me, but could not locate it.

The ground cover here was mostly dense hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*) and ground pine clubmoss (*Lycopodium obscurum*). The gap was approximately 15 x 30 m, and the dominant vegetation in the gap was young red spruce (*Picea rubens*) and Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*) trees from seedling size to 2-4 m high, though these larger trees were closer to the edge. The forest around the gap was spruce-birch forest and was fairly tall, with spruce reaching 25 m. The elevation was 1658 m, and the ground gently sloped towards the northwest. Usually Hermit Thrushes nest on or near the ground, and many times their nests are in a small depression below the ground vegetation. They are more often associated with disturbed areas within a forest rather than with larger road cuts or edge situations of that size. The Hermit Thrush is typically associated with mixed coniferous/deciduous forests (Dilger 1956).

Hermit Thrushes are known to move into disturbed forests (Jones and Donovan 1996). The high elevation spruce-fir forests of North Carolina have been highly altered by storms, the balsam woolly adelgid (*Adelges piceae*), logging, and acid deposition. In the mid 1980s and early 1990s, biologists surveyed birds along Big Butt Trail (Brush Fence Ridge) several times and detected no Hermit Thrushes (Alan Smith, John Gerwin, pers comm.). Since

that time, serious wind damage has occurred along the ridge, knocking down at least 6 large spruce trees, thus creating numerous gaps. At least three territorial thrushes were found using these gaps in 2001.

It appears that this species has expanded its range into the North Carolina mountains fairly recently, perhaps as a result of recent forest disturbance. High-elevation forest disruptions occurred previously when the area was logged in the late 1800s and early 1900s (Haney *et al.* 2001). However, no records for Hermit Thrush exist from this time, and as a result the range expansion hypothesis is conjecture. The lack of records from the early part of the century may be due to early biologists' failure to recognize the rarity of breeding Hermit Thrushes, or to the loss of records; or it may truly reflect the lack of species from this time. Further observations, along with even crude descriptions of surrounding vegetation, could help elucidate any pattern.

Acknowledgments

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Masked Booby off Winyah Bay, South Carolina

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On 4 July 2002, at approximately 11:30 AM, we sighted an adult Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) 18 miles (29 kilometers) off the mouth of Winyah Bay, Georgetown County, South Carolina.

While we were fishing on Allen's private boat, *Seriola*, at the Greenville Artificial Reef, located in 85 feet (26 meters) water, 18 statute miles southeast of the Winyah Bay jetties, the booby flew by the boat approximately 60 yards (55 meters) away. The sighting was brief but close, and made in full sunlight and calm seas. Winds were southwest at about 5 knots; skies were clear. The water temperature was in the high 70's F (ca. 25 ± C). The Masked Booby, a full adult showing some molt in the wings, was moving to the southwest, into the wind, using leisurely flapping flight low over the water. Also seen in the immediate vicinity were about a dozen Cory's Shearwaters and six or eight Wilson's Storm-petrels.

The Masked Booby appeared to be nearly as large as a Northern Gannet. It was pure white on the head, body, and upper wings. The flight feathers (primaries and secondaries) were black. The tail appeared dark. The amount (width) of black in the wings was extensive, indicating dark greater coverts as well.

While some third-year Northern Gannets will show dark secondaries contrasting with a mostly white upper wing, the dark coloration is restricted to the flight feathers, and is not on the coverts. Also this gannet plumage usually shows considerable darker mottling in the white areas, and a darkish collar. The Masked Booby we observed was "clean." Except for one or two shorter flight feathers (molt), the bird was "spotless." The bill appeared pale, and there was no yellowish or golden color on the head or neck as is generally seen in Northern Gannets in summer.

We believe we can eliminate the white morph of Red-footed Booby by the judged large size of the bird (Red-footed is the smallest of the boobies), and by the pale bill and lack of a yellowish wash on the head. While most of the observation was of the upper surface of the bird (which was low over the water), we believe the red feet and dark carpal patches of Red-footed Booby would have initially been visible if present.

Sutton has experience with Masked Booby from the Dry Tortugas (and one off North Carolina) and with Red-footed and Nazca boobies from the Galapagos Islands. Allen has seen Masked Booby at the Tortugas on numerous occasions. We have both seen many thousands of Northern Gannets. We both concur with the identification made simultaneously yet

independently. Always remembered by Sutton will be Allen's initial surprised, alerting comment, "That's not a gannet."

Our Masked Booby sighting is one of an increasing number of reports from the Atlantic waters of South Carolina as more observers venture offshore. While Sprunt (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1970) lists only one sighting, Post and Gauthreaux (*Status and Distribution of South Carolina Birds*, 1989) list two additional records, including one from 14 July 1983. Since then, *The Chat* has detailed two additional South Carolina records of Masked Booby. Accordingly, the Masked Booby should probably be considered to be a rare yet regular visitor to South Carolina offshore waters in summer.

What makes our sighting somewhat unusual is that even at 18 miles offshore, our bird was particularly close to land for Masked Booby, a bird more often associated with deeper Gulf Stream waters. Of interest, and perhaps related, was the observation of several species of warm-water fishes that day (in the same area), including sailfish, dolphin and mola mola, all species that are also usually associated with deeper, warmer, pelagic waters. We had a great day's fishing, but our excellent view of the Masked Booby made it a great birding day too.

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Fall 2002)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter = December 1 - February 28, due March 20

Spring = March 1 - May 31, due June 20

Summer = June 1 - July 31, due August 20

Fall = August 1 - November 30, due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

PACIFIC LOON: Once again the Figure Eight Is., NC, area hosted this species. Two were found among the large Common Loon flock Nov. 16 (Derb Carter). According to Carter, the best time to view these now-annual birds is when the loon flock comes close to shore following schools of fish.

COMMON LOON: Impressive for early in the season was a flock of 29 Commons at Falls Lake, NC, Oct. 24 (Kent Fiala). Also a basic-plumaged

individual sitting on the beach at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Aug. 23 (Jeff Pippen) was apparently an injured or sick summer lingerer.

HORNED GREBE: One was somewhat early in the ocean off South Pond, Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 17 (Ricky Davis).

HERALD PETREL: This fall's Herald Petrel reports involved one off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 10, one off Oregon Inlet, NC, Aug. 17, and two off Hatteras Sept. 16 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

FEA'S PETREL: One off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 24 was a good find for the fall season (Patteson *et al.*).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: One off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 10 was the only one reported from the several pelagic trips this fall (Patteson *et al.*).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: Eighteen was a good count for August during the pelagic trip out of Hatteras on the eleventh (Patteson *et al.*).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: Two off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 10 were the last ones reported from North Carolina waters this season (Patteson *et al.*).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: The large flock of Am. White Pelicans present in the ACE Basin area of south coastal South Carolina continued, with the best count being 300 over the Cumbahee R. at US 17 Aug. 3 (Carroll Richard and Kathleen O'Grady). Other impressive flocks found included up to 200 at C. Romain N.W.R., SC, in early Oct. (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), 121 at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Nov. 17 (Steve Calver), and 50 near Isle of Palms, SC, Sept. 17 (*fide* Piephoff). In North Carolina, where considerably rarer, up to 14 were present at Pea Is. N.W.R. during late Nov. (Jeff Lewis, sev. obs.). Rare inland reports included two over Clarks Hill Res., Parksville, SC, Sept. 15 (Paul Champlin *et al.*) and at least three at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 17 (Eric and Celia Dean).

BROWN PELICAN: Always noteworthy away from the coast, an immature Brown was a surprise at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Nov. 5 (Ricky Davis).

GREAT CORMORANT: An adult was well-described near Rimini, L. Marion, SC, Nov. 13 (Mike Turner). Inland reports of this species are extremely unusual, especially for South Carolina.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: Frigatebirds were found twice this fall, both from unusual locations. Very rarely found offshore, one was off Hatteras, NC, Oct. 10 (Spurgeon Stowe, *fide* Ned Brinkley). Also, inland sightings are usually storm-related, thus of note was one over L. Moultrie, SC, in the Bird Is. area, Aug. 31 (*fide* Tim Keyes).

AMERICAN BITTERN: Noteworthy inland sightings included one very early at Black Mountain, NC, Aug. 8 (Stu Gibeau), one at Hooper Lane, NC, Sept. 20 (Ron Selvey), one at the McDowell Prairie Restoration area near Charlotte, NC, Oct. 26 (Jeff Pippen), and one at Buckhorn Res., NC, Nov. 7 (Ricky Davis).

LEAST BITTERN: Very rare inland, single Leasts were at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Sept. 20 (Ron Selvey) and Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC, Oct. 4 (Dwayne Martin).

GREAT BLUE HERON: Unusual was one picked up alive (later released) near the maintenance area at Mt. Mitchell, NC, Oct. 9, at an elevation of 6,300' (*fide* Don Patterson).

SNOWY EGRET: Some of the better inland Snowy counts were the four at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 25 (Ginger Travis) and the four along the Saluda R., Saluda County, SC, Sept. 8 (Mike Turner).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: Twelve at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 3 (Will Cook *et al.*) was a good count for an inland area. One was also an excellent find far to the west at Hendersonville, NC, Aug. 1-17 (Wayne Forsythe).

REDDISH EGRET: This fall's Reddish Egret reports included a peak of four at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Sept. 24 (Steve Calver), one at Kiawah Is., SC, Aug. 18 (Jim Edwards and Jane Chew), one at Litchfield Beach, SC, Oct. 19 (Donna Bailey), a peak of two at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC, Oct. 22 (Jack Peachey *et al.*), two at Sunset Beach, NC, Sept. 9 (Mary McDavit), and one lingering at the Ft. Fisher, NC spit as late as Nov. 8 (Ritch Lilly).

GLOSSY IBIS: One was locally rare at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 24 (Jeff Lewis); but one was quite rare farther inland at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 3 (Will Cook *et al.*).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: Spoonbills were found several times this fall. Very rare and unusual inland was one at the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, Jackson, SC, Aug. 9-26 (Paul Koehler, Anne Waters). One was a surprise at Bulls Is., Cape Romain N.W.R., SC, in early October (*fide* Taylor Piephoff). And at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, spoonbills were present from Aug. 11 until at least Nov. 8, with an amazing count of eight there Sept. 6-24 (Steve Calver). This is probably a record count for one site in the Carolinas.

WOOD STORK: Excellent inland reports involved 90+ along the Saluda R., Saluda County, SC, Sept. 8 (Mike Turner) and up to 37 in the Long Cane Creek area of Clarks Hill Res., McCormick County, SC, Sept. 15 (Paul Champlin *et al.*). Also, the Sunset Beach, NC area flock totaled at least 100 birds by early September (Diane Hahn).

SACRED IBIS: A large long-legged wader fitting the description of a Sacred Ibis was wandering around central North Carolina this fall. First the bird was seen at L. Townsend, Guilford County, Aug. 16-19 (Dennis Burnette, Ian Dunn, Herb Hendrickson, sev. obs.). Later it was found at L. Orange, Orange County in early September (*fide* Will Cook) and then at L. Don T. Howell, Cabarrus County from late September to Oct. 13 (Taylor Piephoff). One wonders where this bird escaped from and just how far it had wandered.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: An adult showed up at the Henderson County, NC W.T.P. Nov. 12 for a potential first occurrence for the county (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey).

SNOW GOOSE: A flock of 22 Snows at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Nov. 12 (*fide* Wayne Forsythe) was a good find for that western locality.

ROSS'S GOOSE: This rare goose was reported twice, with singles at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 27 (Keith Watson) and at Mayesville, Sumter County, SC, Nov. 28-30 (Lex Glover and Josh Arrants).

BRANT: Two were somewhat early in the Pea Is. N.W.R., NC area Oct. 18 during the Wings Over Water Festival (sev. obs.).

WOOD DUCK: A male Wood Duck was found dead at an elevation of 6,000' at Mt. Mitchell, NC, Oct. 9 (Don Patterson), a most unusual and unexpected occurrence for that locality.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: This species is normally found in decent size flocks during migration, but the flock totaling 223 at the Henderson County, NC W.T.P. Sept. 22 (Wayne Forsythe) was exceptional, especially for that mountain locality.

COMMON EIDER: The only report of this species this fall involved one at C. Hatteras, NC, in mid-Oct. (Brian Patterson) and most likely the same individual at Hatteras Inlet Oct. 19 (Susan Campbell, Taylor Piephoff *et al.*).

SURF SCOTER: Always noteworthy inland, two females were near Rimini, L. Marion, SC, Nov. 3 (Mike Turner), one was near the Columbia, SC W.T.P. Nov. 18 (Turner), and two were on L. Osceola, Hendersonville, NC, Nov. 18 (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe). Also somewhat unusual for the location was a flock of up to nine on South Pond, Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 18-20 (m. obs.-Wings Over Water).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Unusual somewhat inland was one at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 3, as noted by Rich and Susan Boyd. Also, one was with the Surf Scoters on South Pond, Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, during late October (sev. obs.).

BLACK SCOTER: This fall's inland reports included three near the Clarks Hill Res. dam, SC, Oct. 14 (Paul Champlin), one near Oxford Dam, L. Hickory, NC, Nov. 8 (Dwayne Martin), and one at a pond near the Columbia, SC W.T.P. Nov. 18 (Mike Turner).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: One was unusual on the Catawba R., Morganton, NC, Sept. 30 (Dwayne Martin). This individual had been present there for several months since the summer, apparently a non-breeding lingerer.

OSPREY: Noteworthy late inland Ospreys included singles at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Nov. 7 (Ricky Davis), at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC, Nov. 22-25 (Ron Selvey and Wayne Forsythe), and at Greenview Pond, Wake County, NC, in late Nov. (John Argentati).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: One was a good find south of Monroe, Union County, NC, Aug. 24 (Matt Williams). And the group of seven near Pendleton, SC, Aug. 6 (*fide* Sid Gauthreaux, Jr.) was an excellent count for that area.

BALD EAGLE: A group of six seen migrating past Ocean Isle Beach, NC, Sept. 29 (Taylor Piephoff) was very unusual for that southern coastal locality.

NORTHERN GOSHAWKS: This species is the rarest of the regularly occurring hawks in the Carolinas. Thus of note was the migrant adult seen in flight at Southern Pines, NC, Oct. 23 (Scott Hartley).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: The best one-day total reported this fall was the 10,918 going past Pores Knob, Brushy Mts., NC, Sept. 29 (Bill Revis). And one at Cedar Is. N.W.R., NC, Aug. 21 (Rich & Susan Boyd) was most likely an early migrant.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: This species is annual during the fall and winter at Alligator R. N.W.R., NC, and the earliest date one was seen this season was on Nov. 8 (Jeff Lewis).

GOLDEN EAGLE: Goldens are always worth mentioning, especially coastal birds. An adult was in the Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC area Oct. 1-21 (Jack Peachey, Ritch Lilly, sev. obs.), an immature was near Southport, NC, Nov. 19 (Tom Vaught, Harry Sell), and most likely the same bird was near Shallotte, NC, Nov. 29 (Derb Carter).

MERLIN: Some of the more interesting inland reports were the three in the Clarks Hill Res., SC area Oct. 14 (Paul Champlin); one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Oct. 11 (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe); singles at Falls L., NC, Sept. 8 (Bert Fisher and Les Todd), Sept. 14 (Mike Skakuj), Oct. 22 (Will Cook *et al.*); and in eastern Franklin County, NC, Nov. 10-15 (Ricky Davis).

PEREGRINE FALCON: Reports of multiple birds inland are not too common. Thus of note were two at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Oct. 27 (Anne Waters) and three different birds at Falls L., NC, Sept. 28 & Oct. 6 (Ricky Davis).

YELLOW RAIL: Always exciting when seen, from 4-6 were flushed during field harvesting in November in the L. Mattamuskeet, NC area (*fide* Kelly Davis).

VIRGINIA RAIL: One was a surprise on a suburban street in Winston-Salem, NC, Sept. 24 (Royce Hough). One wonders how many of these birds are lost out of habitat during migration.

PURPLE GALLINULE: Since reports of this species continue to decline, the presence of up to five at Brookgreen Gardens, Georgetown County, SC, during August (Jack Peachey, sev. obs.) was noteworthy.

SANDHILL CRANE: This fall's Sandhill Cranes included one near Una, Lee County, SC, Nov. 30 and three near Mayesville, Sumter County, SC, Nov. 28-30 (Lex Glover and Josh Arrants).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: Inland Black-bellieds were at Jordan L., NC, from Aug. 3 (Mike Skakuj, Steve Shultz *et al.*, Will Cook *et al.*) until at least Aug. 18 when a peak of five was had (Ricky Davis). At Falls L., NC, they were present from Aug. 11 until at least Oct. 6 with a peak of five on the 11th (Ricky Davis, sev. obs.). Elsewhere one was found at Long Cane Creek, McCormick County, SC, Aug. 27 (Steve Wagner).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: This species was widely reported from the Carolinas again this fall. The best counts included 23 at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 10 (Royce Hough), nine at Falls L., NC, Sept. 22 (Mike Skakuj), three near Elizabethton, Bladen County, NC, Aug. 1 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), and three at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Sept. 16 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal). The latest inland one was in western Edgecombe County, NC, Oct. 13 (Ricky Davis). Also, one at the Ft. Fisher, NC spit Sept. 25 (Bruce Smithson) was locally uncommon for that beach location.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: The best inland counts this fall were the 66 at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 17 (Mike Skakuj *et al.*) and the 75 at Falls L., NC, Aug. 23 (Ricky Davis).

PIPING PLOVER: One of the rarest shorebirds inland, a Piping Plover was a good find at Falls L., NC, Aug. 18-25 (Bert Fisher and Les Todd, sev. obs.).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: One at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Nov. 3 (Rich & Susan Boyd) was not only locally unusual but also was extremely late. This species normally leaves coastal North Carolina during September.

AMERICAN AVOCET: One was a good find inland at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 17-18 (Steve Shultz, Mike Skakuj *et al.*). Avocets have only recently been present in the L. Mattamuskeet, NC, area and this fall their numbers increased to at least 50 by Nov. 20 (Kelly Davis). Also locally unusual were the six at the Ft. Fisher, NC spit Sept. 25 (Bruce Smithson).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS: One was unusual seen flying over Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, Sept. 29 (Rick Knight).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS: Numbers of this species were about average this fall at the usual inland sites. The peak count reported, though, was the 212 at Falls L., NC, Sept. 28 (Ricky Davis).

WILLET: Inland Willets are always noteworthy in the Carolinas, and this fall the number of reports was up. At Jordan L., NC, singles were found Aug. 3 and Aug. 17-18 (Mike Skakuj, Steve Shultz *et al.*) and Aug. 24-25 (m. obs.). At Falls L., NC, two were found Aug. 11 (Ricky Davis), and singles were found Aug. 12, 18-20 (Skakuj, Bert Fisher, Les Todd, sev. obs.). At Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, a good count of four was had Aug. 23 (Davis).

UPLAND SANDPIPER: The number of reports was about average this fall, when compared to the past several. The best totals reported were the 25 at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Aug. 11 (Judy Walker *et al.*), the five near Bishopville, SC, Aug. 17 (Mike Turner), the five at the Bucksport, SC Sod Farm Aug. 29 (Jack Peachey), and the three at Onslow Beach, NC, Aug. 7 (Paul Sykes).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: The Bird Shoal-Shackleford Banks area near Beaufort, NC, hosted up to two individuals this fall. Two were seen separately Sept. 8 (John Fussell *et al.*, Derb Carter) and two were seen together on the east end of Shackleford Nov. 10 (*fide* Fussell). Elsewhere

one was locally rare at Shallotte Inlet, Brunswick County, NC, Sept. 9, as noted by Greg Massey.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: Four was the peak total reported from the usual North Pond, Pea Is. N.W.R., NC area Aug. 10 (Jim Ward). Much rarer was the almost unbelievable flock of 35 found inland at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Aug. 31 (David Chamberlain *et al.*). This is most likely a record count for this species in the Carolinas!

MARBLED GODWIT: Amazingly there were several rare inland reports this fall. One was at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 21-22 (Bruce Young, Mike Skakuj), one was with the Hudsonian Godwits at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Aug. 31 (David Chamberlain *et al.*), and one was at the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway Nov. 19 & 30 (Kelly Davis).

RUDDY TURNSTONE: Inland reports were somewhat down this fall with only singles found at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 3 and Aug. 17-18 (Mike Skakuj, Steve Shultz *et al.*), and Aug. 25 (Ginger Travis). One was at Falls L., NC, Aug. 11 (Ricky Davis).

RED KNOT: One of the rarest inland shorebirds, a Knot was a good find at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 18, as noted by Doug Shadwick.

SANDERLING: Some of the better inland reports this season involved seven at Falls L., NC, Aug. 23 (Ricky Davis), five there Sept. 11 (Jeff Pippen), five there Sept. 22 (Les Todd, Mike Skakuj), and one at Hooper Lane, NC, Sept. 14 (Wayne Forsythe). The latest inland report received was of one at Jordan L., NC, Nov. 10 (Josh Rose and Norm Budnitz).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER: The highest count reported inland was the 150 at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 3 (Will Cook *et al.*).

WESTERN SANDPIPER: This species is normally found inland less frequently than the preceding. This fall reports were up, with birds present at the Triangle area lakes most of August and September. The best totals included very impressive counts of 75 at Falls L. Sept. 8 (Bert Fisher and Les Todd) and 61 at Jordan L. Aug. 28 (Mike Skakuj). Westerns were located at other sites as well, with two at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Aug. 20 (Ricky Davis), three at L. Hickory, Caldwell County, NC, Aug. 31 (Dwayne Martin), and seven at the Winston-Salem, NC W.T.P. Aug. 25 (Ramona Snavely *et al.*).

LEAST SANDPIPER: Another excellent inland total for a sandpiper was the 227 Leasts at Falls L. Sept. 8 (Mike Skakuj).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: White-rumps normally migrate inland in small numbers. This fall's best count was an impressive 37 at Falls L., NC, Sept. 2-8 (Mike Skakuj, Bert Fisher, Les Todd). Other reports were of seven at Falls Aug. 11-23 (Ricky Davis), five at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 18 (Davis), and two at the Bucksport, SC Sod Farm Sept. 2 (Jack Peachey).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: The number of reports of this normally rare migrant were up again this fall, continuing a recent trend started in the 90's. Reports of multiple birds were up, too, with the best counts being three at Falls. L., Aug. 25 (Bert Fisher, Leto Copeley, Les Todd), three at the Bucksport, SC Sod Farm Sept. 2 (Jack Peachey), two at Falls L. Sept. 22

(Mike Skakuj), two at L. Don T. Howell, Cabarrus County, NC, Sept. 15 (Taylor Piephoff), and two at South Pond, Pea Is., NC, Oct. 19 (Eric Dean, Lex Glover, Kent Fiala). Other Baird's included singles at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 8 & 17 (Skakuj, Steve Shultz *et al.*), at Fall's L. Sept. 2 & 8 (Skakuj, Fisher, Todd), at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Aug. 20 (Ricky Davis), at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 15 (Tim Kalbach *et al.*), one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Aug. 28 (Steve Calver and Bill Edwards), and one at Hooper Lane, NC, Nov. 10 (Les Sauscier, Simon Thompson, Wayne Forsythe). The last bird represented one of the latest-ever fall birds for the Carolinas.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: This is one of the more common inland migrants during the fall, but some impressive counts were had, including 278 at Falls L., NC, Aug. 16 (Mike Skakuj), 200 at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 15 (Tim Kalbach), and 162 at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 17 (Skakuj *et al.*). Several late reports received involved singles at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Nov. 5 (Ricky Davis) and at Falls L., NC, Nov. 23 (Josh Rose).

DUNLIN: This species is considered to be a regular inland migrant during the fall in the Carolinas. This fall in the mountains, an unbelievable flock of over 200 was located at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Oct. 30 (Wayne Forsythe). Counts like this are extremely unusual, especially that far to the west. Other good counts reported included 12 at the Columbia, SC W.T.P. Oct. 30 (Mike Turner), nine at Falls L., NC, Sept. 29 (Mike Skakuj), six at the Kerr Scott Res. Dam, NC, Nov. 3 (Dwayne Martin), and four at the Winston-Salem, NC W.T.P. Oct. 12 (Ramona Snavely *et al.*). Other sightings of note were two at Townville, SC, Oct. 23 (Jim Edwards), two at Brevard, NC, Oct. 31 (Betty McIlwain *et al.*), and one at Roanoke Rapids L., NC, Nov. 24 (Ricky Davis).

STILT SANDPIPER: Numbers were up for this species this fall, especially inland. The highest counts included 80 at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 18 (Ricky Davis), 51 at Falls L., NC, Oct. 6 (Davis), 24 at Falls L. Aug. 16 (Mike Skakuj), and 16 at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 3 (Will Cook *et al.*). Other Stilt Sandpipers reported were two at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Aug. 20 (Davis), one at Long Cane Creek, McCormick County, SC, Aug. 31 (Mike Turner), and two at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Sept. 21 (Marilyn Westphal and Bob Olthoff).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: There were at least 14 reports of this always-noteworthy species. The best counts were 26 at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 21 (Robin Carter *et al.*) and 17 at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Sept. 14 (Steve Calver). Other good sightings involved eight at Hooper Lane, NC, Sept. 12 (Wayne Forsythe and Bob Olthoff), five at Oakland Plantation Sod, Bladen County, NC, Aug. 1 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), four at a sod farm near Newton Grove, NC, Sept. 14 (Eric Dean and Gene Howe), and three at the Bucksport, SC Sod Farm Aug. 28 (Ritch Lilly). Other locally good reports included singles at Falls L., NC, Sept. 8 (Mike Skakuj), Ft. Macon, NC, Sept. 13-17 (Randy Newman, John Fussell,

Rich & Susan Boyd), and the Winslow Sod Farm, Scotland Neck, NC, Sept. 16 (Sharon Funderburk and Veronica Pantelidis).

RUFF: A female (Reeve) was an excellent find in the Ellerbe Creek area of Falls L., NC, Sept. 2-3 (Les Todd, John Dole). This, the only report received for the species this fall, made this inland sighting all the more interesting. Also, this bird was found not far from the area where a Ruff was seen at Falls L. in Aug. 1985!

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: The best counts for this species inland included 26 at Falls L., NC, Aug. 23 (Ricky Davis), 14 at Jordan L., NC, (Davis *et al.*), and seven at Long Cane Creek, McCormick County, SC, Aug. 31 (Mike Turner).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: The only inland report received was of one at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 22 (Mike Skakuj).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: This fall's reports included a flock of 5-8 birds at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 19-28 (Doug Shadwick, Mike Skakuj, m. obs.). This was easily one of the better inland counts for this species in many years. Elsewhere one was at Falls L., NC, Aug. 21 (Skakuj, Will Cook), three were at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Aug. 25 (Jeff Pippen), and the usual flock at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, peaked at 17 on Aug. 15 (Steve Calver).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: The only onshore report received was of one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Sept. 14, as noted by Steve Calver.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: One off Manteo, NC, Aug. 31 (Brian Patteson *et al.*) was the only one found during the pelagic trips run this fall.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: Always noteworthy, one was off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 10 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

LAUGHING GULL: The number of inland reports of this species was up this fall. Three were at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 18 (Ricky Davis), and two were there Oct. 26 (Judy Murray *et al.*). One was at Falls L., NC, Oct. 24 (Kent Fiala). Two were late at Roanoke Rapids L., NC, Nov. 24 (Davis). In South Carolina, one was at the Clarks Hill Res. Dam Sept. 15 (Paul Champlin) and one was at L. Murray on the Irmo side Nov. 1 (Mike Turner).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: There were two reports of this very rare gull this fall. One was at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Oct. 13-23 (Steve Calver) and one was at the Clarks Hill Res. Dam, SC, Oct. 14 (Paul Champlin).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: One was at the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway Nov. 27-30 (Tom Krakauer, Keith Camburn, Kelly Davis, sev. obs.). Not only is this a rare "inland" report, it is probably the same individual that appeared here the previous winter.

BONAPARTE'S GULL: A flock of 35 Bonaparte's at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC, Nov. 23 (Wayne Forsythe and Marilyn Westphal) provided a good count for that mountain locality. Also, one was somewhat early for an inland location at Falls L., NC, Oct. 24, as noted by Kent Fiala.

CALIFORNIA GULL: An adult found in the Lockwood Folly Inlet area at Holden Beach, NC, Aug. 4 (Greg Massey) was a complete surprise. This species has become annual in the C. Hatteras area, but it is extremely rare elsewhere. Also, the early August date suggests that this individual was

probably a summering bird that never returned to its normal breeding area in the west.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: This species continues to be found in the Carolinas early in the fall. Three were at C. Hatteras, NC, Aug. 31 (John & Paula Wright), and seven were there by Sept. 15 (Ned Brinkley). Two were at Shallotte Inlet, Brunswick County, NC during Sept. (Greg Massey), a first-year bird was at Atlantic Beach, NC, Sept. 4 (John Fussell), and a third-year bird was at Atlantic Beach Sept. 21 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff). Away from the usual Outer Banks areas, a good count of six was at the Cedar Is., NC ferry terminal Nov. 10 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall). And in South Carolina, a very rare inland report was of an adult at the Clarks Hill Res. Dam Oct. 14 (Paul Champlin).

CASPIAN TERN: The best inland counts of this regular migrant included 10 at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC, Oct. 6 (Steve Shultz *et al.*), seven at Falls L., NC, Sept. 17 (Mike Skakuj), and five at Jordan L., NC, Aug. 25 (Ricky Davis *et al.*). Other sightings of note were one at L. Hickory, NC, Aug. 12 (Dwayne Martin) and one at Clarks Hill Res. Dam, SC, Oct. 14 (Paul Champlin).

SANDWICH TERN: This species is normally gone from the Outer Banks by late November; thus of note was a good count of eight at C. Hatteras Nov. 28 (Keith Camburn).

FORSTER'S TERN: There were more inland reports than usual this fall. The best counts were 18 at Clarks Hill Res. Dam, SC, Sept. 15 (Paul Champlin), 16 there Oct. 14 (Champlin), and six at L. Julian, NC, Aug. 3 (Wayne Forsythe and Bob Olthoff).

BRIDLED TERN: The highest one-day count offshore this fall was the 23 off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 24 (Brian Patteson *et al.*). In South Carolina, three were good finds off Murrell's Inlet Sept. 7 (Jack Peachey).

SOOTY TERN: Five were good finds off Murrell's Inlet, SC, Sept. 7, as noted by Jack Peachey. In North Carolina, the best one-day total was the 84 off Hatteras Aug. 25 (Brian Patteson *et al.*).

BLACK TERN: Reports of this species were about average when compared to the past several years. The best inland counts included 18 at Falls L., NC, Sept. 2 (Mike Skakuj), 17 at Clarks Hill Res., SC, Aug. 24 (Paul Champlin), and 12 at Lookout Shoals L., NC, Aug. 15 (Dwayne Martin). Other sightings of note were the five at L. Hickory, NC, Aug. 15 (Martin), five at Brattonsville, NC, Aug. 15 (Dave Lovett *et al.*), and a good count of 100+ in the Atlantic Beach, NC area Aug. 21 (John Fussell).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE: There were several inland reports away from the coastal plain this fall. One was shot by a hunter near Hodges, Greenwood County, SC, Sept. 2 (*fide* Donna Bailey) and one was a one-day wonder at the McDowell Park Prairie Restoration area south of Charlotte, NC, Oct. 16 (Don Seriff, Taylor Piephoff, Keith Camburn). This species has wandered from its usual coastal plain areas before, but these two piedmont reports are exceptional.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: This fall's sightings included one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Sept. 30-Oct. 1 (Ron Selve, Wayne Forsythe), Jackson Park, Oct. 10 (John Lindfors), near Brevard, NC, Oct. 17 (Betty McIlwain), near Avon, NC, Aug. 16 (Brian Patteson), and on Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 12 (Jeff Lewis).

COMMON Nighthawk: There were several encouraging counts of this species reported. At Brevard, NC, Sept. 2, a count of 350 was good (*fide* Will Cook), but the 1000+ near Asheville, NC, Sept. 3 (Chris Wilson) was exceptional. Also one was reported from Charlotte, NC, Nov. 3 (Eric Harrold). With it being so late in the season, one wonders if the potentially likely Lesser Nighthawk was ruled out at the time?

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: This species is apparently increasing as a winter visitor in the Carolinas. This fall several were found in North Carolina. An immature male was present near Castalia Oct. 15-Nov. 20 (Sharon Funderburk), and an adult male was near Hillsborough Nov. 7 on into winter (Ginger Travis). The latter bird was photographed and represented the first adult male found for the state!

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Once again reports of this hummingbird were too numerous to mention. Some adult males, always exciting, were found at Piney Creek, Alleghany County, NC, Aug. 5-6 (James Coman), Hendersonville, NC, mid.-Sept. to early Oct. (Wayne Forsythe, sev. obs.), York, SC, in late Sept. (Bill Hilton, Jr.), Hampstead, NC, during Aug. (Betty Scott), and Myrtle Beach, SC, Aug. 25 (Gary Phillips).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: One was locally unusual at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, Sept. 29-30, as noted by Rick Knight.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: Very unusual were the six seen flying through Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, Sept. 29 (Rick Knight). This species is not common at all in the surrounding lowlands.

NORTHERN "RED-SHAFTED" FLICKER: An individual of this form was seen moving past Congaree Bluffs Preserve, SC, Oct. 13 (Robin Carter *et al.*). This western form is extremely rare in the east, and all birds found should be scrutinized to determine if they are pure "Red-shafted" or hybrids with "Yellow-shafted".

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: Always noteworthy, this fall's Olive-sides included three at Jackson Park, NC during Aug. and Sept. (Wayne Forsythe, sev. obs.), one at Mills River, Henderson County, NC, Aug. 3 (Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Marilyn Westphal), one at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, Sept. 5 (Rick Knight), and one along Gum Swamp Rd., Aiken County, SC, Oct. 19 (Anne Waters *et al.*).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: Each successive fall period seems to provide an increasing number of reports of this flycatcher. Sightings included a calling individual at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Aug. 31 (Wayne Forsythe *et al.*), one at Glenn Hilton Park, Hickory, NC, Sept. 5 (Dwayne Martin), one in Aiken, SC, Sept. 7 (Paul & Tracy Champlin), one in Georgetown County, SC, Sept. 10 (Gary Phillips), one at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, Sept. 6 (Rick Knight), two in the Charlotte, NC area Sept. 6-8

(John Buckman), one at Sunset Beach, NC, Sept. 21 (Mary McDavit), and one in Duke Forest, NC, Sept. 24 (Jeff Pippen).

ALDER FLYCATCHER: This hard-to-identify species was found twice, with single birds at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Aug. 3 (Bob Olthoff, Marilyn Westphal) and at Glenn Hilton Park, Hickory, NC, Sept. 5 (Dwayne Martin). In both cases the birds were heard calling.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: One was unusual at Falls L., NC, Sept. 14 (Mike Skakuj). Of particular interest was that this individual was heard giving its song, not just the normal migratory call notes.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: The reports received this fall included a calling Least at Glenn Hilton Park, Hickory, NC, Sept. 5 (Dwayne Martin), one at Ridgeway, Fairfield County, SC, Sept. 14 (Robin Carter *et al.*), one at Jordan L., NC, Sept. 21 (Will Cook), and one on James Is., SC, Sept. 28 (Dennis Forsythe).

WESTERN KINGBIRD: One was at Ft. Fisher, NC, Oct. 27 (Bruce Smithson) and Nov. 6-8 (Ritch Lilly, Steve Shultz, sev. obs.), for the only reports received.

GRAY KINGBIRD: One was very rare and unusual for the Carolinas at Southport, NC, Nov. 2 (Gene Howe, Greg Massey, Sam Cooper). This was a juvenile bird that caused some confusion as to its identity since this plumage is almost never seen in our area and is not depicted very often in field guides.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: The Monroe, NC area summering birds (one adult and one immature) were last seen about 1.5 miles from the nest tower Aug. 24 (Matt Williams).

WHITE-EYED VIREO: Very late for western North Carolina was the White-eyed found near Brevard Nov. 22-23 (Betty McIlwain).

WARBLING VIREO: Very rare for the coast in the fall, one was a good find on Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 25, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Once again, reports of this species were too numerous to mention all of them. Some of the better counts involved three in Henderson County, NC, Sept. 21 (*fide* Marilyn Westphal), three on Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 29 (Jeff Lewis), two on Bald Head Is., NC, Sept. 29 (Derb Carter), and two in Nash County, NC, Sept. 18 (Ricky Davis). The latest report was of one on Roanoke Is., NC, Oct. 10 (Lewis).

HORNED LARK: This species continues to increase in Carteret County, NC, an area considered to be at the eastern edge of its normal range. One was unusual at the Cedar Is. Ferry Terminal Nov. 3 (John Fussell *et al.*), and a good count of 25 was near Otway Nov. 24 (Jack Fennell).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: One was quite late for an inland location at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC, Nov. 3 (Dwayne Martin).

CAVE SWALLOW: Cave Swallows staged an unprecedented migration to the east coast this fall. After reports north of the Carolinas in early November, several were found in the Carolinas by late month. On Nov. 28, 15 were at Sunset Beach, NC, and four were at Ocean Isle Beach, NC, (Taylor Piephoff *et al.*, Derb Carter.). The next day, six were at Sunset

Beach (Ricky Davis, Harry LeGrand, Jeff Pippen, Carter), 11 were at Ocean Isle (John Dole), and one was at Caw Caw Park, Ravenel, SC, (Perry Nugent). On the 30th, four were at Sunset Beach (Eric Dean), two were at Caswell Beach, NC (Pippen); and an amazing 31 were counted in the Ocean Isle-Seaside area (Will Cook). Concerning the subspecific identity of these birds, all observers were in agreement that all birds seen well enough were of the southwestern race.

BARN SWALLOW: Noteworthy late Barns included one in eastern Franklin County, NC, Nov. 8 (Ricky Davis) and two at L. Marion, Calhoun County, SC, Nov. 14 (Mike Turner).

SEDGE WREN: One was a surprise inland on the early date of Aug. 3 at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, (Bob Olthoff, Marilyn Westphal). Was this a very early migrant or just a lingering non-breeder?

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: The best count of this uncommon migrant was the eight on Roanoke Is., NC, Oct. 10, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: A good diurnal count of this migrant was the 30+ at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Sept. 28 (Wayne Forsythe and Keith Camburn). Also, 130 were banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, from Sept. 5-Oct. 8 (Rick Knight).

WOOD THRUSH: An excellent diurnal count of 50 was had at Jackson Park, NC, Oct. 1 (Ron Selvey). This was one of the best one-day totals reported for this species in many years.

BROWN THRASHER: A locally unusual high count of eight banded thrashers was had at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, during the period Sept. 2-Oct. 8 (Rick Knight).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Noteworthy away from the mountains were singles at Ft. Motte, Calhoun County, SC, Sept. 13 (Mike Turner), at Cashua Ferry Landing, Darlington County, SC, Oct. 3 (Turner), and at James Is., SC, Oct. 21 (Dennis Forsythe). The last bird was considered to be rather late for the fall season.

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER: The more common of the two hybrids between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers was reported twice. One was at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 29 (Bob Wood) and one was at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Sept. 21 (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: This warbler normally migrates through the mountains in good numbers each fall, but the observance of 1,000's moving along Clingman's Dome Road in the Great Smoky Mountains Nat. Park Sept. 7 must have been impressive (Keith Camburn). One was considered quite early at Ridge Junction Overlook, Blue Ridge Parkway, NC, Aug. 11, as noted by Dwayne Martin. Elsewhere at the coast, where considerably harder to find, singles were at Roanoke Is., NC, Oct. 3 and Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 19 (Jeff Lewis), and at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Oct. 5 & 9 (Steve Calver).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: One at the Flat R. Impoundment, Durham County, NC, Nov. 24 (Jeff Pippen), was a good find away from the coastal plain where the species winters.

NASHVILLE WARBLER: The number of reports of this uncommon warbler were about average, with the best counts being two at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 17 (Brian Patteson, Jeff Lewis, Ricky Davis) and two being banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, Sept. 9 (Rick Knight). Others included singles at Charlotte, NC, Sept. 7 (Larry Barden), at Beaver L., Asheville, NC, Sept. 18 (Tim Lewis), at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 27 (Anne Waters and Calvin Zippler), and one slightly late at Pea Is. Nov. 7 (Lewis).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: One was an early migrant at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, Aug. 4, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Simon Thompson. The best one-day count was an impressive 50 at Jackson Park on Sept. 11 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). Good coastal migrants, where much less common than in inland areas, included singles at Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 16-18, 26 (Ned Brinkley, Jeff Lewis) and Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Sept. 11 (Lewis).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: Another good one-day count at Jackson Park, NC, was the 30+ Magnolias found Sept. 21 by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey.

CAPE MAY WARBLER: One was slightly late for an inland location near Castalia, NC, Nov. 2 (Brad & Pat Carlson).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: One was somewhat late at Jordan L., NC, Oct. 26 (Josh Rose), but one at Brevard, NC, Nov. 14 (Betty McIlwain) was exceptionally late.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: One on Roanoke Is., NC, Oct. 18 (Jeff Lewis) was considered to be locally rare. Also locally unusual was one near the beach at Ft. Macon, NC, Sept. 28 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: The best count received was of five at Jackson Park, NC, Oct. 12, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey. One was also somewhat late at Jordan L., NC, Oct. 27 (Ricky Davis).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: A good count for the southern coastal area was the three at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Oct. 23 (Steve Calver). Several slightly late individuals were found including one at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Nov. 1 (Ricky Davis) and one at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Nov. 2 (Jeff Lewis and Joan Kutulas).

CERULEAN WARBLER: Reports of this threatened species are always worth mentioning. Good finds included one near Landrum, SC, Aug. 11 (Tim Kalbach) and one along Gum Swamp Road, Aiken County, SC, Oct. 19 (Anne Waters *et al.*), the latter bird being rather late for our area.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: One in the Bent Creek Rec. Area, Buncombe County, NC, Sept. 15 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall) was a locally unusual find from the mountain area.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: This species is normally found during migration in small numbers; thus of note was the amazing count of 12 seen

at Jackson Park, NC, Aug. 4 (Wayne Forsythe and Simon Thompson). Elsewhere, one at Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 18 (Jeff Lewis) was unusual for that coastal locality.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: This is one of the more numerous migrants in the Carolinas during the fall, but the one-day count of 60 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Aug. 28 (Steve Calver *et al.*) was truly astounding!

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: This fall's reports of this always-noteworthy migrant included one near Ridgeway, Fairfield County, SC, Sept. 14 (Robin Carter *et al.*), one at Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 24 (Jeff Lewis), one at Bald Head Is., NC, Sept. 29 (Derb Carter), and one near Rocky Mount, NC, Oct. 13 (Ricky Davis).

MOURNING WARBLER: There were four reports received of this rare fall migrant. Singles were at Charlotte, NC, Sept. 6 (Taylor Piephoff), on Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 18 (Jeff Lewis), near L. Don T. Howell, Cabarrus County, NC, (Alan Kneidel), and in Southern Pines, NC, Oct. 3-4 (Wayne Irvin).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT: This is one of the commonest warblers in our area; thus many go overlooked by the casual observer. Of note then was the count of 329 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Oct. 5 (Steve Calver). The birds must have been literally covering the grasses that day!

WILSON'S WARBLER: Noteworthy reports of this uncommon migrant away from the mountains included one at Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 12 and Oct. 17-18 (Jeff Lewis), one at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC, Oct. 6 (John Dole), one at Charlotte, NC, Sept. 6 (John Buckman), and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Oct. 9 & 13 (Steve Calver).

CANADA WARBLER: One was locally rare at Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 18, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Two were rather late at Bodie Is., NC, Nov. 27 (Keith Camburn). One of these was found dead along the highway while the other was found alive along the Bodie Is. pond boardwalk!

SUMMER TANAGER: Observers noted this species to be more common in the Jackson Park, NC, area this fall. Where normally one to two are found in a season, several were found daily during September (Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey).

SCARLET TANAGER: An excellent one-day count of 30 was had at Jackson Park, NC, Sept. 28 (Ron Selvey).

WESTERN TANAGER: An immature female was a surprise at the northern end of Pea Is., NC, Oct. 19 (Ricky Davis). Although this species is annual in the Carolinas during the winter, reports from the migration seasons are very rare.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Sightings this fall included one near Jordan L., NC, Sept. 21 (*fide* Will Cook), one at Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 24-25 (Jeff Lewis), one at the Santee Coastal Res., Charleston County, SC, Oct. 12 (David Chamberlain and Murray Thompson), two at Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Oct. 13 (Lewis and Marlene Schumm), one at Ft. Macon, NC, Nov. 1 (John

Fussell), one at Ft. Fisher, NC, Nov. 2 (Sam Cooper), and one at Morehead City, NC, Nov. 28 (Fussell).

LARK SPARROW: The only Lark Sparrows reported this fall were singles at Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 24-25 and Oct. 8 (Jeff Lewis).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Noteworthy fall reports included one near Brevard, NC, Oct. 21 (Betty McIlwain), one at the McDowell Prairie Restoration, Charlotte, NC, Oct. 26 (Jeff Pippen), one at Broad River W.M.A., Fairfield County, SC, Oct. 27 (Tim Kalbach), two at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC, Oct. 31 (Simon Thompson *et al.*), one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, Nov. 8 (Steve Calver), and one at the Savannah River Site, SC, Nov. 15 (Paul Champlin).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: This secretive species was found several times this fall. The best count came from the Savannah River Site, SC, where 16 were found Nov. 23 (Paul Champlin). Also two near Brevard, NC, Oct. 4-5 (Betty McIlwain *et al.*) and one at Townville, SC, Nov. 17 (Linda Sharp *et al.*) were good finds.

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: One found at the Savannah River Site, SC, Nov. 15 (Paul Champlin) provided a rare inland report for the Carolinas.

SONG SPARROW: A juvenile Song Sparrow was found in Lancaster County, SC, Aug. 15 (Mike Turner). Was this bird from a local breeding effort?

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: This species was reported rather frequently once again. The best one-day count was the three at Alligator R. N.W.R., NC, Nov. 12 (Jeff Lewis). Other sightings of note included one early at Glenn Hilton Park, Hickory, NC, Sept. 7 (Dwayne Martin *et al.*), one early at Clingman's Dome Road, Great Smoky Mts. Nat. Park, NC, Sept. 7 (Keith Camburn), one at Jackson Park, NC, Oct. 10 (Wayne Forsythe), one banded at York, SC, Nov. 1 (Bill Hilton, Jr.), one at McDowell Prairie Restoration, Charlotte, NC, Oct. 26 (Jeff Pippen), one at Broad River W.M.A., Fairfield County, SC, Oct. 27 (Tim Kalbach), one at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Nov. 10 (Simon Thompson *et al.*), one at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Nov. 14 (Ricky Davis), and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, Nov. 8 (Steve Calver).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Reports were few this fall, with one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC, Oct. 31 (Simon Thompson *et al.*) and 12 at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, Nov. 10 (Thompson and Wayne Forsythe).

SNOW BUNTING: One found near Avon, NC, Oct. 18 (Eric Dean *et al.*) was quite early for this species in the Carolinas. The only other report received was of one in flight at South Pond, Pea Is. N.W.R., NC, Nov. 3 (Ricky Davis).

NORTHERN CARDINAL: One was very unusual at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC, Oct. 3 (Rick Knight). This was the first one the observer had ever found at that elevation in that area.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: A female at a feeder near Chapel Hill, NC, Nov. 16 (Kent Fiala) provided a rare late fall report.

INDIGO BUNTING: One at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC, Nov. 14 (Ricky Davis) was rather late, especially for an inland location.

PAINTED BUNTING: One was locally unusual on Roanoke Is., NC, Oct. 25, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

DICKCISSEL: Some of the better reports of Dickcissel this fall involved an impressive count of eight on Pea Is., NC, Sept. 17 (Ned Brinkley), two on Roanoke Is., NC, Sept. 13 (Jeff Lewis), two at Ft. Fisher, NC, Oct. 8 (Sam Cooper), two near Brevard, NC, Oct. 21-22 (Betty McIlwain *et al.*), one at Falls L., NC, Oct. 6 (Ricky Davis), one in a yard at Chapel Hill, NC, Nov. 28 on into the winter (Jan Hansen), and one frequenting a feeder at Nags Head, NC, from early Nov. on into the winter (Skip & Linda Morgan).

BOBOLINK: This is a common migrant in the Carolinas, but the flock of over a thousand near Kinston, NC, Sept. 6 (Clyde Sorenson) must have been an impressive sight.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: This species is an annual visitor to the Carolinas. This fall, an adult male was coming to a feeder near Richlands, Onslow County, NC, during the last half of September (Jim O'Donnell).

SHINY COWBIRD: Only one was reported this season, that being a well-studied female at the Cedar Is., NC, Ferry Terminal Oct. 7, as noted by Rich and Susan Boyd.

EVENING GROSBEAK: The only report received was of a flock of six at Whispering Pines, Moore County, NC, Nov. 8 (Susan Campbell). This species has been present in extremely low numbers for many winters now.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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The Carolina Bird Club, Inc. is a non-profit educational and scientific association founded in 1937. Membership is open to those interested in the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club may be deductible from state and federal income and estate taxes. Checks should be made payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. and sent to CBC Headquarters, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-1029.

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2002 Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

Donna Slyce,¹ Gifford Beaton, Jr., Lex Glover, Tim Kalbach, Taylor Piephoff, Will Post, Steve Wagner

¹Chair

In 2002, the South Carolina Bird Records Committee completed action on 7 records. Of these, 3 were accepted and 4 were not accepted. One of the accepted records added a new species to the State List in the Provisional I category. A detailed report of a Red-necked Stint accompanied by sketches added this species to the State List.

In August 2002 (*Chat* 66:119–124), the committee published a revised State List of species documented in South Carolina. The current State List stands at 447 species, including 16 Provisional II species and 13 Hypothetical species. The most recent revision of the list follows this annual report.

The annual meeting required by the by-laws of Carolina Bird Club, of which the Bird Records Committee is a standing committee, was held on 29 September 2002 at Litchfield Beach, SC. The two items on the agenda were the definitions for two categories of the State List. The definitions for inclusion on the “Definitive List” and for inclusion on the “Hypothetical List” were discussed and voted on. By a unanimous vote, the committee voted to retain the definition of “definitive” as “species documented in the state by a properly voucherized specimen, unretouched recognizable photographs or video, or a recognizable sound recording of a species”, as set forth by the committee in 1996. By a majority vote, the definition of “hypothetical” is “species which are undocumented to the committee but reported in *North American Birds* or *The Chat*.“ These definitions become the criteria by which species will be added to the State List in the future.

Committee membership did not change in 2002.

Committee activity is reviewed below.

Accepted reports:

Brant (12-99-17) – A concise but thorough report by Charles Flint of a Brant present at Lake Keowee in late December of 1999 was accepted by the committee.

Red-necked Stint (08-00-12) – A bird present in August of 2000 at the Savannah Spoils Site was observed by Steve Calver who documented it in a write-up accompanied by sketches. The report was accepted by the committee. This is a first state record for the species and it places the species on the State List in the Provisional I category, a category for species judged to be of entirely wild origin for which there are accepted reports but no specimens, photographs, or recordings have been archived by the committee.

Dickcissel (12-99-13) – An immature bird of this species was present at a feeder in the yard of Phil and Sharon Turner in December of 1999. The committee accepted a report accompanied by sketches of this bird from Sharon Turner.

Non-accepted reports:

Long-tailed Jaeger (06-00-03) – A report of a very brief observation of a pair of birds seen offshore from Murrell's Inlet was not accepted by the committee. The brevity of the observation left the report lacking in diagnostic details including any assessment of plumage or color phase.

Philadelphia Vireo (01-00-01) – A report of a bird seen near the Wildlife Drive in the Cuddo Unit of Santee NWR in early January of 2000 was not accepted due to a divergence in the submitted description from standard descriptions of the species and a lack of precedent for winter records of the species in North America.

Reports sent for outside review:

Ruff (04-00-02) – A lack of convincing detail in the written description and in the elimination of similar species in this report of a bird seen in April of 2000 at Santee Coastal Reserve led to an indecisive vote from the committee, and the report will be sent to outside review. It will then be resubmitted to the committee for reconsideration.

Pomarine Jaeger (11-99-16) – Because the report did not rule out a similar species convincingly, this otherwise concise and clear report occasioned a split decision from the committee. The report will be sent for outside review and then resubmitted to the committee for reconsideration.

Spring 2002 North American Migration Count in South Carolina

Donna Slyce

321 Hope Ferry Road, Lexington, SC 29072

The Spring 2002 North American Migration Count (NAMC) was held on 11 May 2002. The reporters for this NAMC tallied 31,951 individuals of 197 species. One hundred forty five participants comprising 94 parties surveyed 18 counties of South Carolina. For the second year in a row, the weather for the Spring NAMC was rainy in some counties. Many reporters in the Piedmont and the Midlands encountered heavy rains throughout the day, including pre-dawn thunderstorms in some areas. Comparing the Spring 2001 and the Spring 2002 counts shows that the 2002 count had two more counties reporting but 20 fewer participants and 29 fewer parties. For the 2002 count, 23 species of warblers were found in the state compared to 25 species found in the spring of 2001. The 2002 count did not find Chestnut-sided Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, or Wilson's Warbler, all of which were found on the 2001 count. However, Palm Warbler and Northern Waterthrush were found in 2002. These two species were last reported on a Spring count in 2000.

Also interesting are comparisons of the number of individuals of warbler species that are widespread in South Carolina. The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data give a trend estimate for the period 1992-2002 for the state of South Carolina, and are taken from the national Breeding Bird Surveys conducted and coordinated by the United States Geological Service.

	2000	2001	2002	% Change from 2000 to 2002	BBS 1992- 2002 Trend Estimate
Northern Parula	230	309	254	+10.43	-5.60
Yellow-throated Warbler	129	132	102	-20.93	-2.81
Pine Warbler	292	326	329	+12.67	+2.15
Prairie Warbler	49	65	47	-4.25	+0.78
Common Yellowthroat	219	180	238	+8.68	-2.74

As stated in past years, because the collection of data for NAMC lacks scientific rigor and has no established protocols, the conclusions to be drawn from these numbers are limited. Nonetheless, it is interesting to note that NAMC data agree with BBS trends for two species, Yellow-throated Warbler and Pine Warbler, and have only an insignificant difference due to a

small sample size for a third species, Prairie Warbler. The two species for which NAMC data do not correlate with BBS data show wide swings in numbers from year to year. With a longer time frame for the NAMC sample, it will be interesting to see if those two species eventually bear out the trends of the BBS data.

Among the species for which an increase in numbers and an expansion of distribution is almost certain is Eurasian Collared-Dove. Twenty individuals from six counties were reported this spring, in contrast to 19 individuals from four counties reported for the last spring count. The six counties reporting Eurasian Collared-Dove were: Aiken, Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, Georgetown, and Lexington. While the increase in numbers is modest, the additional two counties reporting the species (Aiken and Beaufort) illustrate the continuing range expansion of the species. Because Common Ground-Dove has been declining in numbers recently, it is something of a surprise to find the species among those with an increase in reported numbers this spring. Four counties, tallying nine individuals, reported Common Ground-Dove, up from one county and three individuals last spring. Beaufort, Charleston, Georgetown, and Hampton reported Common Ground-Dove this spring, while only Dorchester reported the species in spring of 2001.

Among the widespread species reported from every county were Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Northern Mockingbird, and Northern Cardinal. Northern Cardinal was the most numerous of the widespread species, followed by Northern Mockingbird as the second most numerous species.

Among the highlights of the Spring 2002 NAMC are three Snow Geese found in Oconee County; a White-rumped Sandpiper found in Georgetown County; five Pine Siskins found in Lexington County; and a Baltimore Oriole found in Spartanburg County. Thirty-one species were "exclusives", found only in one county. The exclusives are distributed as follows:

Aiken	2
Charleston	12
Cherokee	2
Colleton	2
Georgetown	1
Greenville	1
Lexington	1
Oconee	5
Richland	1
Spartanburg	3
Union	1

County Summaries

Aiken County (AIKE): 114 species, 2872 individuals.

Coordinator: Anne Waters
1621 Apple Valley Drive
Augusta, GA 30906
706-793-2788

Participants: Dori Brenneman, Ron Brenneman, Lee Dane, Larry Eldridge, Judy Gregory, Christine Huzella, Ally Riddle, Alice Walker, Doug Walker, Vernon Waters, Calvin Zippler

Aiken County reported the highest number of one of South Carolina's "specialty" birds—Bachman's Sparrow—as well as good numbers of other species also associated with "Longleaf Pine savannah" habitat—Pine Warbler and Brown-headed Nuthatch. Aiken was the only county reporting Blue-winged Warbler and Swamp Sparrow and was also one of two counties reporting Hooded Merganser, a possible winter holdover or maybe even a breeding bird.

Beaufort County (BEAU): 87 species, 1094 individuals.

Coordinator: Dennis M. Forsythe
748 Swanson Avenue
James Island, SC 29412
843-795-3996

Participants: Pat Keller, Tara Mettles, Judy Rigg, Bob Taylor

Beaufort County reported good numbers of a variety of shorebirds including Black-bellied Plover, Whimbrel, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and both Caspian and Forster's Tern. Beaufort was also one of only four counties reporting Common Ground-Dove.

Calhoun County (CALH): 82 species, 603 individuals.

Coordinator: Tim Kalbach
104 Catawba Circle
Columbia, SC 29201
803-254-5187

Participants: Nancy Lyman, Gary Sowell

Calhoun County reported several migrants, including Bobolink, Blackpoll Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager. Among the breeding species and possible breeding species, Calhoun County reported good numbers of Osprey and high numbers of American Redstart.

Charleston County (CHAR): 152 species, 11,524 individuals.

Coordinator: Perry Nugent
2260 Dallerton Circle
Charleston, SC 29414
843-556-3841

Participants: Craig Watson, Andy Harrison, Danny Carlson, Van Atkins, Jim Brownlee, Giff Beaton, Ben Smith, Sue Ann Russell, Allen Russell, Charles Walters, Lanney Ayers, Edward Conradi, Linda Zinnikas, Marcia Hider, Peg

Clark, Tori Langen, Mariland Kord, Joan Hylander, Ann Kent, Martha Stevenot, Joe Stevenot, Mrs. M. A. Aldenderfer, Paul Aldenderfer

Charleston was one of only two counties reporting Least Bittern, Mottled Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Wilson's Plover, Red Knot, Western Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Black Skimmer, and Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Species exclusive to Charleston County were Glossy Ibis, American Black Duck, Swallow-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, King Rail, American Oystercatcher, Marbled Godwit, Common Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Willow Flycatcher, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Charleston also reported the highest numbers of many species of waders, including both species of Night-Heron and White Ibis.

Cherokee County (CHER): 78 species, 933 individuals.

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307
864-585-1228

Participants: Travis Childers, Claude Cobb, Ken Garrett, J. B. Hines, Karla Lavender, Scott Lavender, Maxi Nix, Dee Gee Parker, Tina Pearsall, Alan Rose, Ed Wilde

Cherokee County reported two nice-to-find migrant warbler species, Northern Waterthrush and Blackpoll Warbler. Cherokee County was also one of two places reporting more Blue Grosbeaks than Indigo Buntings and was the only county reporting Olive-sided Flycatcher and Veery.

Colleton County (COLL): 103 species, 2498 individuals.

Coordinator: Sharon Brown
P. O. Box 327
Adams Run, SC 29426
843-889-8299

Participants: Liz Smylie

The two species exclusive to Colleton County were Caspian Tern and Marsh Wren. Also found were excellent numbers of Whimbrel and Least Sandpipers.

Dorchester County (DORC): 80 species, 829 individuals.

Coordinator: Dennis Forsythe
748 Swanson Avenue
James Island, SC 29412
843-798-3996

Participants: Donna Forsythe, Ann Shahid, Jean Wattley, Mike Dawson, Jack Gerstner

Dorchester County reported several bona fide migrant warbler species including Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and a lingering Yellow-rumped Warbler, as well as excellent numbers of the more expected Northern Parula and Prothonotary Warbler.

Fairfield County (FAIR): 77 species, 535 individuals.

Coordinator: Donna Slyce
321 Hope Ferry Road
Lexington, SC 29072
803-951-7122

Participants: Leah Campbell, Cary Taylor, Susan Taylor

Working under the disadvantage of heavy rain throughout the day, Fairfield County was one of only two counties reporting Blue-headed Vireos. Fairfield also reported the state high number for Prairie Warblers.

Georgetown County (GEOR): 97 species, 1532 individuals.

Coordinator: Jack Peachey
103 Walnut Circle
Conway, SC 29520
843-347-5810

Participants: Dave Gustafson, Charles Heacock, Carl Rogers

White-rumped Sandpiper was an excellent find in Georgetown County and exclusive for the state. Georgetown County also reported good numbers of Semipalmated Plovers and Semipalmated Sandpipers.

Greenville County (GREE): 86 species, 1100 individuals.

Coordinator: Peter L. Worthington
716 North Almond Drive
Simpsonville, SC 29681
864-967-4183

Participants: Len Kopka, Pres Davies, Don Pierce, Linda Sharp

Common Raven was exclusive to Greenville County. It is not an easy species to find in South Carolina and not always reported on statewide tallies. Greenville County was also one of two of the "mountain" counties reporting Black-throated Green Warbler, a local breeder in that part of the state.

Hampton County (HAMP): 76 species, 1055 individuals.

Coordinator: Carroll Richard
P.O. Box 893
Hampton, SC 29924
803-943-4661

Participants: Kathleen O'Grady, J.C. Raymond

Hampton County reported far and away the highest total of Bald Eagles in the state, with an astounding 30 individuals. This tally bests even Hampton County's tally of 20 Bald Eagles last spring.

Lexington County (LEXI): 75 species, 1225 individuals.

Coordinator: Molly Bonnell
202 Cannon Trail Road
Lexington, SC 29072
803-359-6280

Participants: Andrea Ceselski, Jerry Griggs

Also working under a handicap of heavy early morning and mid-day rain, Lexington County reported one exclusive: five lingering Pine Siskins. Lexington County also reported a nice warbler species, a migrant through the Midlands, Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Oconee County (OCON): 97 species, 1866 individuals.

Coordinator: Steve Wagner
316 East Creswell Avenue
Greenwood, SC 29646
864-223-0416

Participants: Don Cox, Steve Cox, Vicki Cox, Jenny Harris, Phyllis LeMay, Chris Welch

Oconee County reported a new extreme late date for Snow Goose. The birds, well described in supporting documentation, were more than two weeks beyond the previous statewide late date of 26 April as published in Post and Gauthreaux's *Status and Distribution* and not revised in Post and McNair's *Supplement*. Oconee County also reported two other exclusives associated with water and marsh, Red-breasted Merganser and Virginia Rail. Given that Oconee is considered one of the "mountain" counties, the other two exclusives for the county—Magnolia Warbler and Cooper's Hawk—could almost be expected; certainly more expected than a rail species.

Richland County (RICH): 73 species, 735 individuals.

Coordinator: Robin Carter
4165 E. Buchanan Drive
Columbia, SC 29206
803-788-8820

Participants: Steve Dennis, Caroline Eastman, Alice Steinke.

A lingering Savannah Sparrow was exclusive to Richland County. Richland County also reported two nice-to-find migrant species, Northern Waterthrush and Black-throated Blue Warbler, and a nice-to-find year-round resident, Eastern Screech-Owl.

Spartanburg County (SPAR): 91 species, 2694 individuals.

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307
864-585-1228

Participants: Laura Bannon, John Barry, Anna Bennett, Daniel Bennett, Susan Bennett, Anna Brown, Tim Brown, Pat Burton, Sarah Campbell, Dan Codispoti, Matthew Coleman, Teressa Coleman, Tom Moore Craig, Linda Deahl, Glenn Englehardt, Roy Fowler, Pat Fowler, Ron Gahagan, Onoosh Gahagan, Teresa Glen, John Green, Catherine Griffith, Lauren Griffith, Bennett Grizzard, Conway Henderson, Jessie Ivy, Marvin Jackson, Connie Jenne, Ron Jenne, Herb Kay, Micky Marotte, Mary Ann Myers, Angela Miller, Mike Miller, Jim Miller, Margaret Miller, Bill Moody, Nancy Owens, Ken Pearson, Lisa Pearson, Bob Powell, Sandra Powell, Ginny

Scott, Walton Scott, Mac Shealy, Laurel Sullivan, James West, Dan Wooten, Nancy Wooten

Spartanburg's three exclusive species were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, White-throated Sparrow, and Baltimore Oriole. While the Baltimore Oriole was most likely a migrant, the other two species were apparently lingering overwintering birds. Spartanburg also reported an "unusual for the inland location" Snowy Egret.

Sumter County (SUMT): 50 species, 703 individuals.

Coordinator: Lloyd Moon
6150 Brookland Road
Sumter, SC 29154
803-494-3234

Participants: Lloyd Moon

Working as a one-man count and hampered by rain, Sumter County nonetheless reported an excellent find: two Least terns, apparently individuals from a breeding colony at Shaw AFB.

Union County (UNIO): 19 species, 78 individuals.

Coordinator: Baxter Cody
408 West Main Street
Union, SC 29379
864-427-6826

Participants: Baxter Cody

Another one-man count, this count was essentially a feeder watch. Among the nice yard birds found in Union County were Song Sparrows, Gray Catbird, and Sharp-shinned Hawk, an exclusive for Union County.

York County (YORK): 28 species, 75 individuals.

Coordinator: David Collopy
505 North Confederate
York, SC 29730
803-327-8342

Participants: David Collopy

In another one-man count, the reporter for York County trying to work on foot was forced to surrender in the face of early morning torrents of rain. Despite the rain-shortened count, York reported some nice to find birds, including Grasshopper Sparrow and Barred Owl.

North American Migration Count in South Carolina 11 May 2002

Pied-billed Grebe	Brown Pelican	Double-crested Cormorant	Anhinga	Least Bittern	Great Blue Heron	Great Egret	Snowy Egret	Little Blue Heron	Tricolored Heron	Cattle Egret	Green Heron	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	White Ibis	Glossy Ibis	Wood Stork	Black Vulture
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# Counties Reporting	TOTAL	16	341	16
YORK			3	1
UNIO			399	15
SUMT	6	6	113	10
SPAR	10	10	2	1
RICH	12	12	192	13
OCON	15	15	12	2
LEXI	17	17	12	2
HAMP	19	19	3	2
GREE	20	20	3	2
GEOR	20	20	3	2
FAIR	20	20	1	1
DORC	20	20	1	1
COLL	20	20	1	1
CHER	20	20	1	1
CHAR	20	20	1	1
CALH	20	20	1	1
BEAU	20	20	1	1
AIKE	20	20	1	1
Turkey Vulture	31	15	31	15
Snow Goose	10	64	3	1
Canada Goose	4	9	3	1
Wood Duck	24	6	399	15
American Black Duck	1	1	113	10
Mallard	51	11	2	1
Mottled Duck	2	1	1	1
Blue-winged Teal	1	1	1	1
Hooded Merganser	2	1	1	1
Red-breasted Merganser	10	2	1	1
Osprey	13	3	1	1
Swallow-tailed Kite	2	1	1	1
Mississippi Kite	4	3	1	1
Bald Eagle	26	3	40	4
Northern Harrier	7	1	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	1	1
Cooper's Hawk	4	2	2	2
Accipiter, sp.	1	1	1	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	4	2	4

# Counties Reporting								
TOTAL		53	8					
YORK		318	3					
UNIO		3	1					
SUMT		13	3					
SPAR		302	2					
RICH		91	4					
OCON		118	4					
LEXI		550	2					
HAMP		195	7					
GREE		86	2					
GEOR		10	6					
FAIR		1	1					
DORC		137	4					
COLL		2	3					
CHER		54	1					
CHAR		1	1					
CALH		119	6					
BEAU		9	4					
AIKE		14	2					
	Spotted Sandpiper	10	1	15	2	2		
	Whimbrel	48	30	240				
	Marbled Godwit	3	6	6				
	Ruddy Turnstone	6	4	298				
	Red Knot	15	50	17	9			
	Sanderling	40	25	10	43			
	Semipalmated Sandpiper	3	83	8	3			
	Western Sandpiper	18	25	125	1			
	Least Sandpiper	10	107	12	8			
	White-rumped Sandpiper	1	362	188				
	peep, sp	17	1	17				
	Pectoral Sandpiper	6	500	163	6			
	Dunlin	10	40	5	161			
	Short-billed Dowitcher	3	3	3	6			
	Dowitcher, sp	12	10	3	2			
	Laughing Gull	2	12	2	4			
	Ring-billed Gull	12	12	1	1			
	Herring Gull	1	1	1	1			
	Gull-billed Tern	1	1	1	1			
	Caspian Tern	1	1	1	1			

Brown-headed Nuthatch	Carolina Wren	House Wren	Marsh Wren	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Eastern Bluebird	Veery	Wood Thrush	American Robin	Gray Catbird	Northern Mockingbird	Brown Thrasher	European Starling	Cedar Waxwing	Blue-winged Warbler	Northern Parula	Yellow Warbler	Magnolia Warbler
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# Counties Reporting	TOTAL	5	9	5
YORK			2	2
UNIO			15	2
SUMT			102	13
SPAR			1	329
RICH			47	8
OCON			4	2
LEXI			3	3
HAMP			3	3
GREE	1	3	1	4
GEOR	1	1	14	4
FAIR			24	8
DORC			122	12
COLL			7	5
CHER			9	4
CHAR			26	5
CALH			5	2
BEAU			1	5
AIKE			1	18
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	3	1	5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	1	2	2
Black-throated Green Warbler	6	9	15	2
Yellow-throated Warbler	4	4	6	2
Pine Warbler	11	8	12	13
Prairie Warbler	14	11	24	15
Palm Warbler	13	6	9	15
Blackpoll Warbler	62	4	12	15
Black-and-white Warbler	11	1	3	8
American Redstart	2	2	1	2
Prothonotary Warbler	37	7	5	8
Worm-eating Warbler	1	1	1	2
Swainson's Warbler	5	5	2	5
Ovenbird	5	5	13	18
Northern Waterthrush	1	1	1	1
Louisiana Waterthrush	2	1	1	1

# Counties Reporting	TOTAL	Kentucky Warbler	Common Yellowthroat	Hooded Warbler	Yellow-breasted Chat	Summer Tanager	Scarlet Tanager	Eastern Towhee	Bachman's Sparrow	Chipping Sparrow	Field Sparrow	Savannah Sparrow	Grasshopper Sparrow	Song Sparrow	Swamp Sparrow	White-throated Sparrow	Dark-eyed Junco	Northern Cardinal	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Blue Grosbeak		
YORK		1	2	1	1	3	3	1	7	1	5	22	3	5	2	238	12				7	
UNIO		13	13	141	4	34	2	5	5	5	14	5	1	1	61	11						
SUMT		12	3	3	2	2	5	5	5	4	3	2	23	2	5	92	13					
SPAR		13	1	19	2	8	5	5	4	3	2	23	2	5	1	3	166	17				
RICH		35	6	13	58	3	5	7	7	1	5	2	7	3	6	4	1	3	1	4		
OCON		12	2	4	86	11	43	1	7	10	12	11	22	13	6	35	1	2	305	17		
LEXI		13	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	4	2	2	4	141	15				
HAMP		35	6	13	58	3	5	7	7	1	5	2	7	3	6	4	2	6	42	8		
GREE		15	2	4	86	11	43	1	7	10	12	11	22	13	6	35	1	1	15	3		
GEOR		15	2	4	86	11	43	1	7	10	12	11	22	13	6	35	1	1	15	3		
FAIR		10	2	4	4	4	4	2	9	10	4	8	23	3	12	2	4	141	15			
DORC		20	2	2	24	17	1	2	9	10	4	8	23	3	12	2	4	141	15			
COLL		4	1	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	16	16	6	42	8			
CHER		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
CHAR		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
CALH		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
BEAU		15	12	21	204	35	50	20	21	48	71	53	73	26	22	105	37	6	6	1028	18	
AIKE		15	12	11	19	2	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	10	10	10	10	11	2		

# Counties Reporting	TOTAL	YORK	UNIO	SUMT	SPAR	RICH	OCON	LEXI	HAMP	GREE	GEOR	FAIR	DORC	COLL	CHER	CHAR	CALH	BEAU	AIKE
Indigo Bunting	43	18	80	7	23	3	13	2	23	1	16	78	12	24	1	7	351	16	
Painted Bunting	2	8	12	51	17	3	3								1		97	8	
Bobolink	97	50	50	2													2	201	5
Red-winged Blackbird	65	49	17	1176	9	194	14	2	26	50	14	54	5	42	30		1747	15	
Eastern Meadowlark	20	4		22			4			8		2	20		32			112	8
Brewer's Blackbird	143	8	31	529	98	35	56	23	65	60	27	76	57	15	105	145	6	1479	17
Common Grackle	68	19	27	88	9	9	10	6	15	5	1	42	12	3	31	19	5	554	5
Boat-tailed Gackle	25	10	4	15	4		3	3	3	5	3	13	8	7	4	2		321	16
Brown-headed Cowbird	10					7				4							5	16	3
Red-blackbird, sp																		84	14
Orchard Oriole																		1	1
Baltimore Oriole																		15	2
Purple Finch																		458	16
House Finch	63	7	2	64	13	3	27		21	77	7	49	16	12	75	11	11		5
Pine Siskin																		167	10
American Goldfinch	23																	112	16
House Sparrow	26	3	2	7	6	3	4	4	13	4	6	4	10	13	1	6			
Species	114	87	82	152	78	103	80	77	97	86	76	75	97	73	91	50	19	28	197
Individuals	2872	1094	603	11524	933	2498	829	535	1532	1100	1055	1225	1866	735	2694	703	78	75	31951

General Field Notes

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General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, or significant nesting records; or summaries of such items. Submit manuscripts to the appropriate state editor.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

Recent Limpkin Records from South Carolina

John Cely,¹ Giff Beaton,² Jerry Bright,³ Andy Day,⁴ and Perry Nugent⁵

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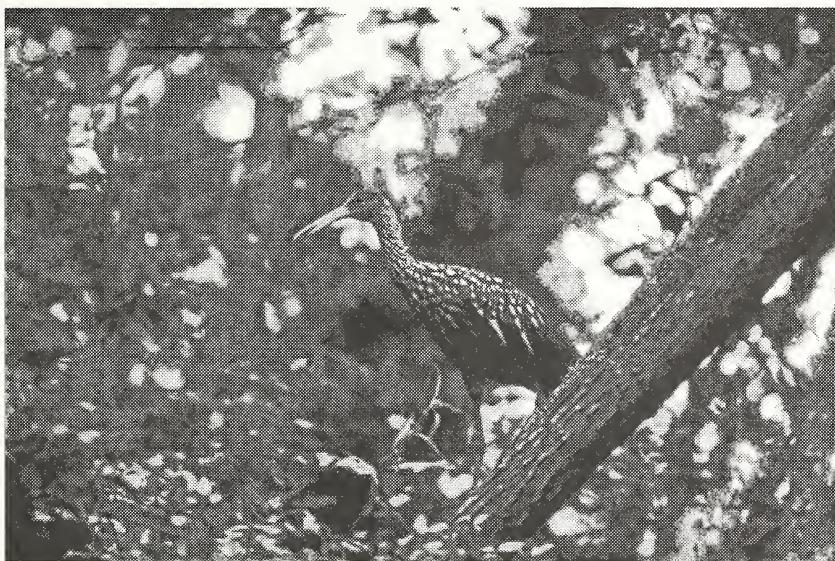
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Post and Gauthreaux (Status and Distribution of South Carolina Birds. Contrib. XVIII, Charleston Museum, 1989:19) classify the Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) in South Carolina as “casual” with documentation consisting of three specimens, two from Aiken County in October 1890, and one from Charleston County in July 1904. Several Limpkin sight records for South Carolina also exist but no details have been published (Post and Gauthreaux 1989). We reviewed back issues of The Chat from 1988 through No. 1, 2002, and found no Limpkin reports from South Carolina during that period. We report here six South Carolina Limpkin records from 2001 and 2002, five of which are photo-documented.

On 1 March 2001, Beaton photographed a Limpkin in an impounded marsh off the Laurel Hill Drive at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Jasper County. This bird apparently stayed in the area until early May.

On 13 May 2001, Nugent photographed a Limpkin at Magnolia Gardens in Charleston County, while on 31 May 2001, Day photographed two Limpkins perched together on a limb on the Horry County side of Bull Creek (the dividing line between Georgetown and Horry Counties) near Port Harrelson Landing.

The last Limpkin record for 2001 was by Bright who took the accompanying photograph near Riser's Old River in the Upper Santee Swamp, Sumter County, on 2 September.



**Limpkin in the Upper Santee Swamp, Sumter County, South Carolina,
2 September 2001; photographed by Jerry Bright**

In 2002, Nugent saw a Limpkin at Caw Caw Park in Charleston County on 28 August but was not able to photograph it.

What could account for the unprecedented number of Limpkin records in South Carolina during such a short span? The state of Florida, where the entire United States Limpkin breeding population resides, has been undergoing a prolonged drought accompanied by severe wildfires during the past several years. Robert Bennett, an aquatic resource specialist for the United States Geological Survey at Gainesville, reported that the 2001 drought was widespread in Florida, with the central part of the state being especially hard hit (Bennett, pers. comm.). It is possible that dry wetlands

and lack of rain contributed to the northern dispersal of Limpkins into South Carolina.

Limpkins were also seen in Georgia during this same time period with several published reports in the Oriole: one photographed at Harris Neck NWR on 29 April 2001 (Oriole 66:61); one at the Altamaha River, McIntosh County on 8 October 2001 (Oriole 67:17); and two seen there 28 October–3 November 2001 (Oriole 67:17). A Georgia sighting from 2000 was also reported from Tatnall County on 4 August (Oriole 66:24). The only recent North Carolina record was in June 1998 (Chat 63:83–84).

We thank Donna Slyce and Lex Glover of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee for providing assistance. The photographs by Beaton, Day, and Bright are on file with the South Carolina Bird Records Committee. Beaton provided the Limpkin records that were published in the Oriole.

**CBC Rare Bird Alert
(704) 332-BIRD
Web Site: www.carolinabirdclub.org**

Partial Albino American Goldfinch on Johns Island, South Carolina

Pete Laurie

750 Copperhead Trail, Johns Island, SC 29455

In mid-January 2003, a partial albino American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) was observed at a sunflower feeder on Johns Island, Charleston County, SC. The bird's wing and tail plumage appeared normal, but the rest of the bird was almost pure white except for a faint wash of yellow on the throat and face. Both the legs and bill were very pale.



Partial Albino American Goldfinch

The bird, part of a small flock of normal winter plumage goldfinches, was observed almost daily from a distance of about 20 feet, but disappeared after two weeks. It appeared to behave normally and was not harassed by other members of the flock.

According to Terres (1980), albinism, in its various degrees, occurs in less than one percent of wild avian species. It is more common in birds with dark plumage, such as brown and black, and much less common in birds with light colored plumage such as goldfinches.

Literature Cited

Terres, J. K. 1980. The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds. Alfred A. Knopf. New York.

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Winter 2002–03)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter = December 1 – February 28, due March 20

Spring = March 1 – May 31, due June 20

Summer = June 1 – July 31, due August 20

Fall = August 1 – November 30, due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

RED-THROATED LOON: The only inland Red-throated Loon reported was at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC Feb. 9 (Ricky Davis). This species seemed to be present in higher than normal numbers along the coast, as evidenced by the 2,775 on the Southport, NC Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Jan. 5 (*fide* Davis).

PACIFIC LOON: Figure Eight Island, NC once again hosted this species. Birds were present most of the winter as usual with the peak count being 3–4 on Dec. 26 (Derb Carter). Either one of these or another was at nearby Wrightsville Beach on Jan. 4 (Carter).

RED-NECKED GREBE: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, this winter's sightings included one on the New Bern, NC CBC Dec. 16 (Rich & Susan Boyd et al.), two at Isle of Palms, SC Jan. 27 (David Abbott), one at Avon, NC Feb. 7 (Rich & Susan Boyd), one at Oregon Inlet, NC Feb. 7–19, (Boyd's, sev. obs.), one inland at Harris L., Wake County, NC in mid-Feb. (Mike Swaim), one at C. Hatteras, NC Feb. 20 (Mary McDavit), and one at Sullivans Island, SC Feb. 26 (Abbott).

EARED GREBE: Reports of this annual winter visitor included two on the L. Norman, NC CBC Dec. 15 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), one in Pamlico Sound, NC from the Swan Quarter ferry Dec. 31 (Josh Rose), one at the Santee Coastal Reserve, Charleston County, SC Feb. 4 (Jack Peachey et al.), one at Rodanthe, NC Feb. 14 (Wayne Irvin, Jeff Lewis, Shantanu Phukan), one at C. Hatteras, NC Feb. 15 (Scott Baron), and one at Wrightsville Beach, NC Feb. 28 (Derb Carter). Also the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC hosted from one-to-four throughout the winter (Steve Calver).

WESTERN GREBE: Very rare was the Western Grebe found at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC Dec. 14–15 (Tim Lewis, Lori Unruh; Len Pardue, Marilyn Westphal, Tom Joyce et al.). Although there are about 6–7 previous reports for the state, this one was the first for the mountains.

SOOTY SHEARWATER: A Sooty Shearwater was a surprise, seen flying over the surf near Nags Head, NC Feb. 22 (Eric Dean et al.). This was North Carolina's third winter report of this species, which is normally gone from the western Atlantic during this time of year.

MANX SHEARWATER: There were several sightings from shore along North Carolina's Outer Banks this winter. Two were seen from Pea Island NWR Feb. 12 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall), one was at Rodanthe Feb. 5 (Jeff Lewis), one was near Salvo Feb. 15 (Eric Dean), and one was at Avon Feb. 22 (Dean et al.). Surprisingly only one was seen offshore on the pelagic trip out of Hatteras Feb. 15 (Brian Patteson et al.).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: The number of reports of this species was up this season. In the ACE Basin area of South Carolina, where a sizable flock has been present for some time, the best counts included 119 on the ACE Basin CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Pete Laurie) and 100 at Bear Island WMA Feb. 10–13 (Jack Peachey, Paul Rogers; Perry Nugent et al.). Also 11 were on the nearby Hilton Head Island CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Nan Lloyd). In North Carolina, reports included an impressive flock of 24 on the L. Mattamuskeet CBC Dec. 28 (Wayne Irvin, Don Temple), 10 at Pea Island NWR Dec. 4 (George West et al.), two at Mackay Island NWR Dec. 14 (Karen Beatty et al.), two in the South River area of Carteret County Jan. 9 (*fide* John Fussell), and two flying over Wrightsville Beach Feb. 22 (Ken Lundstrom, *fide* Will Cook).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: This species continues to increase as a winter resident at inland reservoirs. The Jordan L., NC CBC doubled its previous high with 2,103 counted Dec. 29 (*fide* Norm Budnitz) and a record total of 1,257 was had on the L. Wateree, SC CBC Jan. 4 (*fide* Donna Slyce). Numbers were high along the coast too, as evidenced by the 60,796 tallied on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 30 (*fide* Pat Moore).

ANHINGA: Always noteworthy in North Carolina during winter, three Anhingas provided a good count near Greenville Jan. 18 (John Wright et al.), and one was at Kinston Jan. 12 (John Fussell).

LEAST BITTERN: Very rare in winter in the Carolinas, one was a good find at the Savannah NWR, SC Jan. 18 (Sharon Brown).

GREAT EGRET: Inland winter sightings of note included singles at Raleigh, NC Dec. 21 (*fide* John Connors) and at Jordan L., NC Jan. 26 (Harry LeGrand).

CATTLE EGRET: There were several reports of Cattle Egrets from the Carolinas this winter. The best counts were of eight on the Hilton Head Island, SC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Nan Lloyd), six in the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC Jan. 12 (Brad & Pat Carlson), and four in Hyde County, NC Dec. 7 (Jeff Beane et al.). Others included singles at Silver Lake, Ocracoke, NC Dec. 29 (Beane et al.), one at C. Hatteras, NC for several weeks in December (sev. obs.), and one on the ACE Basin, SC CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Pete Laurie).

GREEN HERON: This species was present in the Carolinas this winter in much higher than normal numbers. Some rather impressive counts included seven on the Hilton Head Island, SC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Nan Lloyd), six on the Sun City–Okatie, SC CBC Dec. 15 (*fide* Helen Chatterton), four on the McClellanville, SC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Pete Laurie), and four on the Charleston, SC CBC Jan. 5 (*fide* Bob Chinn). Others in South Carolina included two on the Litchfield–Pawleys Island CBC Dec. 30 (*fide* Jack Peachey) and two on the ACE Basin CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Pete Laurie). In North Carolina, one was at Ft. Fisher Dec. 8–28 (Jeff Pippen, Harry LeGrand), one was on the Central Beaufort County CBC Dec. 15 (*fide* James Albera), one was at Atlantic Beach Dec. 17 (*fide* John Fussell), one was on the Pamlico County CBC Dec. 17 (*fide* Liz Lathrop), one was at Ocracoke in late December (*fide* Peter Vankevich), two were on the C. Hatteras CBC Dec. 30 (*fide* Pat Moore), one was on the Bodie–Pea Island CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Paul Sykes), and two different birds were in the L. Mattamuskeet area Dec. 28 (Fussell) and Jan. 12 (Brad & Pat Carlson). And finally one was very rare and unusual inland on the Jordan L. CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Norm Budnitz).

GLOSSY IBIS: This species is quite hard to find on the Outer Banks in winter, thus of note was a single Glossy at the C. Hatteras salt pond Dec. 30 (Allen Bryan, Ricky Davis), and three there Feb. 7 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: This season's reports included two at Ocracoke, NC Feb. 7 (Rich & Susan Boyd), two at the Sneads Ferry,

NC WTP Jan. 19 (Andy Webb), and a flock of up to 16 at Townville, SC from early January to late February (Steve Patterson, Jeff Catlin, sev. obs.).

ROSS'S GOOSE: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, this annual species was found at several sites this year. At usual coastal plain sites, one was at L. Mattamuskeet, NC Dec. 6 (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand), and one was on the Pettigrew, NC CBC Dec. 30 (*fide* Lisa Williams). Farther inland were one near the Columbia, SC WTP Dec. 14 (Mike Turner), one along Dairyland Rd., Orange County, NC throughout February (Jeff Pippen, Derb Carter, Will Cook, sev. obs.), and two at Hooper Lane, NC Jan. 24–25 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selve).

BRANT: Always good finds in South Carolina, six were at Bull Island Jan. 5 (Nathan Dias et al.) and 11 were at Mt. Pleasant Jan. 7 (David Abbott).

TUNDRA SWAN: Some reports of note, away from the usual Coastal Plain wintering areas, included a flock of up to 66 near Stateburg, SC Dec. 17 to early February (Lloyd Moon, Mike Turner), one at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC Jan. 18 (Gordon Brown), and three on L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC Jan. 24–25 (Danny Swicegood, Wayne Forsythe).

EURASIAN WIGEON: Reports of this annual visitor were down, with only one being found, a male at L. Mattamuskeet, NC Jan. 17 (Josh Rose et al.).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: One at L. Crabtree, NC Jan. 18 was a good find for that inland site in winter (Gordon Brown).

CANVASBACK: An impressive flock of at least 1,015 was at Roanoke Rapids L., NC during the winter, as noted by Ricky Davis.

RING-NECKED DUCK: This species wintered in the Carolinas in good numbers this year. Some high counts included over a thousand at the Jacksonville, NC WTP Dec. 28 (Nell Moore, Jim & Laura O'Donnell), 1,369 on the Pee Dee, NC CBC Jan. 4 (*fide* Laura Fogo), and over 4,000 at Roanoke Rapids L., NC during Dec. and Jan. (Ricky Davis).

GREATER SCAUP: Easily a record count for North Carolina was the 179 Greeters found on the Southport CBC Jan. 5 (Derb Carter).

KING EIDER: King Eiders are much rarer in the Carolinas than Common Eiders. Thus of note were two different Kings in the Ft. Fisher, NC area during December. A 1st-winter female was found Dec. 3–10 (Bruce Smithson, sev. obs.) and a second 1st-winter bird was seen Dec. 10 (Andy Webb). Later, on Dec. 12, one of the birds was found dead (Smithson). What happened to the other bird is not known.

COMMON EIDER: Reports of this eider, all in North Carolina, included five female types flying past Ft. Fisher Jan. 5 (Ricky Davis), a female in the C. Hatteras area Feb. 1 (Haven Wiley et al.), one at Oregon Inlet Feb. 5–17 (Jeff Lewis, Bob Anderson, sev. obs.), and a female at the Rodanthe pier Feb. 13–14 (Wayne Irvin, Jeff Lewis, Shantanu Phukan).

HARLEQUIN DUCK: Two females at Oregon Inlet, NC Jan. 20 (Doug Shadwick et al.) were excellent finds. This duck has been very scarce in North Carolina the last several years.

SURF SCOTER: Rare inland was one near the Columbia, SC WTP Dec. 2 (Mike Turner). This species annually winters in good numbers in North Carolina's Pamlico Sound, but the count of over 10,000 Jan. 18 was quite exceptional (Harry LeGrand et al.).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: There were two inland reports this winter; two at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC Jan. 25–Feb. 2 (Steve Shultz, m. obs.) and one at Roanoke Rapids Lake Feb. 9 (Ricky Davis).

BLACK SCOTER: Another rare inland scoter was the Black near the Columbia, SC WTP Dec. 2 (Mike Turner). Also the count of 2,815 on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 30 (*fide* Pat Moore), along with good counts elsewhere, indicated a larger than normal presence of scoters in the area this winter.

LONG-TAILED DUCK: This species was reported more often this season than in winters past. The farthest south were one at Myrtle Beach St. Pk., SC Dec. 7 & Feb. 28 (Tim Kalbach and Gary Sowell, Jack Peachey) and one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Dec. 1 & 30 (Peachey). Very good inland finds included one at Jordan L., NC Jan. 11 (Doug Shadwick et al.) and two at Robinwood L, Gastonia, NC Feb. 17–18 (Steve Tracy, Duane Crane, Lamar Ashe). Southern coastal North Carolina reports of note involved one at Ft. Fisher Jan. 5 (Ricky Davis) and four at Wrightsville Beach Feb. 28 (Derb Carter).

COMMON GOLDENEYE: An excellent inland count was the 30 at Falls L., NC Dec. 16, as noted by Brian Bockhahn.

COMMON MEGANSER: Reports of this species were about average this season. The highest count received was of nine at the usual wintering spot of L. Phelps, NC Dec. 22 (Rich & Susan Boyd). Some other sightings of note included four on L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC Jan. 16 (Wayne Forsythe), one at Shelley Lake, Raleigh, NC Dec. 21 (Karen Bearden), one from the Ocracoke–Swan Quarter ferry Dec. 31 (Josh & Airlie Rose), one at Twin Lakes, Sunset Beach, NC Jan. 26 (Jim & Marianne Clark), three near Greenville, NC Jan. 18 (Brad Carlson), one on the New Bern, NC CBC Dec. 16 (*fide* Bob Holmes), and two on the Southern L. Norman, NC CBC Dec. 15 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff). In South Carolina, where decidedly much harder to find, one was near Stateburg, Sumter County, Dec. 17 (Lloyd Moon) and one was on the Savannah River Site CBC Dec. 19 (*fide* Adrienne DeBiase).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Inland reports of note included 14 at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Feb. 9 (Ricky Davis), two on the L. Wateree, SC CBC Jan. 4 (*fide* Donna Slyce), and one on the Brevard, NC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Norma Siebenheller).

OSPREY: Osprey reports were up this winter, mostly at coastal sites. Of particular interest were a couple of inland sightings. One was very far inland at L. Don T. Howell, Cabarrus County, NC Jan. 8 (Tomm Lorenzin) for a rare winter report. Also of note were two on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC Dec. 28 (John Fussell) and one on the Pettigrew St. Pk., NC CBC Dec. 30 (*fide* Lisa Williams). Finally the count of 17 on the Santee, SC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Lex Glover) was very impressive for that inland location.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: This season's Rough-leggeds included the annual bird at Alligator R. NWR, NC Dec. 22–Jan. 20 (Jeff Lewis, sev. obs., Doug Shadwick et al.), an adult at Fountain Inn, Greenville County, SC Jan. 24 (Pete Worthington), and one at Max Patch, Haywood County, NC Dec. 31–Jan. 7 (Jonathan & Wendy Mays, Bob Olthoff).

GOLDEN EAGLE: An immature Golden was a good find south of Sparta, NC Jan. 23, as noted by Harrol Blevins. Other reports came from the coast with immatures noted at New Bern, NC Jan. 18 (Ken Wilkins), L. Mattamuskeet, NC Jan. 17 (Kelly Davis, Hop Hopkins), and Charleston, SC Jan. 30 (Craig Watson).

MERLIN: Merlins are rather uncommon inland during the winter, but there were more reports than normal this year. Some of the more interesting reports involved one at Hooper Lane, Buncombe County, NC Jan. 25–Feb. 22 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey, Tom Joyce), one on the Brevard, NC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Norma Siebenheller), one near Townville, SC Jan. 2 (Mike Turner), one on the Iredell County, NC CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Sam Cathey), one on the Columbia, SC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Robin Carter), one on the Santee, SC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Lex Glover), two different ones in Moore County, NC Dec. 15 & Jan. 12 (Jeff Beane), and one on the Falls L., NC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Brian Bockhahn).

PEREGRINE FALCON: Locally unusual was a Peregrine in downtown Rocky Mount, NC Dec. 1 (Katrina McDougald, *fide* Marshall Brooks). Also of note was one at Hooper Lane, NC Dec. 29–Jan 2, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Bob Olthoff.

RUFFED GROUSE: The new Balsam, NC CBC reported 15 Ruffed Grouse Jan. 4 (*fide* Bob Olthoff). This was certainly an impressive total for such a secretive species.

YELLOW RAIL: The elusive, rarely seen Yellow Rail was observed twice this winter. One was seen briefly near Permuda Is., Onslow County, NC Dec. 28 (Nell Moore) and one was flushed from a ditch near Nebraska, Hyde County, NC Jan. 4 (*fide* Kelly Davis).

SANDHILL CRANE: There were many more reports than normal of Sandhill Crane this winter. The most amazing report was of the 100 in a field near Weaverville, NC Feb. 16, as noted by Nancy Clark. This total easily surpassed any previous count of this species in the Carolinas! Other good counts included 17 at Santee NWR, SC Jan. 6 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), 17 at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC Jan. 19 (Nathan Dias), 13 over Low Falls Landing, L. Marion, SC Dec. 17 (Mike Turner), 15 along I-26 in Dorchester County, SC Jan. 31 (Turner), and 11 over Haywood County, NC Feb. 15 (Tony Scardaci). Other sightings of note involved three in Carteret County, NC Dec. 15 (Rich & Susan Boyd, JoAnne Powell), two near L. Landing, L. Mattamuskeet, NC Jan. 11 until at least Feb. 11 (Kelly Davis, Steve Shultz, Brian Pendergraft, sev. obs.), two over Mt. Pleasant, SC Feb. 28 (David Abbott), and two at L. Junaluska, NC Jan. 12 until sometime in March (Don Hendershot, Bob Olthoff).

WILSON'S PLOVER: This winter's Wilson's Plovers were found only in the usual locations. Three were at Bird Shoal, Beaufort, NC during December (John Fussell) and one was at Ft. Fisher, NC Jan. 5 (Fussell et al.).

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER: An excellent total of 918 was had on the Charleston, SC CBC Jan. 5 (*fide* Bob Chinn).

AMERICAN AVOCET: The L. Mattamuskeet, NC area continued to host this species with an impressive flock of 75 being noted Dec. 7 (Ricky Davis et al.). There were still six present on the CBC there Dec. 28 (Davis, Andy Webb). Also one at Bird Shoal, Beaufort, NC Dec. 7 (Fussell) was a good find for that locality.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS: A good count inland during winter was the 20 Lessers on the Wayne County, NC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Eric Dean).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Fewer Spotteds were reported this winter than last, with the best counts being four on the Hilton Head Island, SC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Nan Lloyd), two on the Wayne County, NC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Eric Dean), and two on the Aiken, SC CBC Dec. 24 (*fide* Calvin Zippler). Elsewhere singles were found at Atlantic Beach, NC during Dec. and Jan. (*fide* John Fussell), on the Litchfield-Pawleys Island, SC CBC Dec. 30 (*fide* Jack Peachey), on the Charleston, SC CBC Jan. 5 (*fide* Bob Chinn), and the Sun City-Okatie, SC CBC Dec. 15 (*fide* Helen Chatterton).

WHIMBREL: This winter's sightings involved one at Bird Shoal, NC Dec. 7 (John Fussell), one on the Litchfield-Pawleys Island, SC CBC Dec. 30 (*fide* Jack Peachey), and two at Ft. Caswell on the Southport, NC CBC Jan. 5 (Jeff Pippen, Will Cook).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: There was only one report of this species this winter from the Carolinas. Two were on the McClellanville, SC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Perry Nugent).

MARBLED GODWIT: This species provided a locally rare occurrence at L. Mattamuskeet, NC with one there Dec. 7 and two present Dec. 28 (Ricky Davis et al.).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: A Pectoral found on Sullivans Island, SC Feb. 16 (David Abbott) was extremely early, probably beating the previous record by several days.

PURPLE SANDPIPER: An excellent count of 80 Purples was had at Breach Inlet, Sullivans Island, SC Feb. 22 (Dennis Forsythe et al.). This species was reported in good numbers at the other usual locations in the Carolinas also.

RED PHALAROPE: Only three were found offshore of Hatteras, NC on the Feb. 15 pelagic trip (Brian Patteson et al.). The only other report was of one found dead on the beach near Salvo, NC Feb. 17 (Bob Anderson).

GREAT SKUA: The Hatteras, NC pelagic trip on Feb. 15 once again was successful at finding this species with three being seen (Patteson et al.).

ONSHORE JAEGERS: Of interest locally at Isle of Palms, SC were single Pomarines Jan. 21 & 27, and a Parasitic Feb. 16 (David Abbott).

LAUGHING GULL: Several excellent winter counts included an impressive inland total of 11 on the Wayne County, NC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide*

Eric Dean) and 80 at the Jacksonville, NC WTP Feb. 8 (Jim & Laura O'Donnell, Bob Holmes et al.).

LITTLE GULL: This winter's reports involved singles at Emerald Isle, NC Feb. 15 (Jamie Cameron et al.), off Hatteras, NC Feb. 15 (Patteson et al.), and at C. Hatteras point Feb. 16–18 (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen, Ricky Davis).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: The only report this winter came from the recent "inland" location along the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway Jan. 9 (Kelly Davis).

CALIFORNIA GULL: The Outer Banks again hosted this species with single adults being noted at C. Hatteras Feb. 17 (Jeff Pippen et al.) and at Oregon Inlet Feb. 23 (Steve Rottenborn et al.).

HERRING GULL: One at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC Feb. 17 provided a locally unusual sighting for that mountain area (Bob Olthoff, Wayne Forsythe).

THAYER'S GULL: This species was present in the C. Hatteras, NC area this winter with one adult on the CBC Dec. 30 (*fide* Pat Moore), one adult and two 1st-winter birds Feb. 16 (Derb Carter, Jeff Pippen, Ricky Davis, Brad Carlson, Wayne Irvin, Jeff Lewis), and one adult Feb. 23 (Steve Rottenborn et al.).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: The Triangle area again had Lessers this winter with three on the Falls L. CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Brian Bockhahn), one at Falls L. Jan. 26 (Ricky Davis), and one on the Jordan L. CBC Dec. 29 (Will Cook).

GLAUCOUS GULL: Only one report was received this winter, that being a 1st-winter individual at Ft. Moultrie, SC Feb. 26 (David Abbott).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: The number of inland reports of Greaters was up this winter. The best counts were four on the Falls L., NC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Brian Bockhahn) and four on the Jordan L., NC CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Norm Budnitz). Elsewhere two were on the Durham, NC CBC Dec. 15 (Will Cook), two were at Falls L. Feb. 1 (Harry LeGrand), and two were at Peck's Landing, L. Marion, SC Jan. 16 (Mike Turner).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: Always noteworthy from shore, four were seen at C. Hatteras, NC Dec. 30 (Harry Armistead et al.), and single adults were seen at Isle of Palms, SC Jan. 21, 27, and Feb. 16 (David Abbott).

FORSTER'S TERN: One was a locally good find on the Jordan L., NC CBC Dec. 29 (Brian Bockhahn).

DOVEKIE: This species staged what could be called a minor invasion into the Carolinas this winter. One seen flying close to shore at Ft. Fisher, NC Dec. 4 was definitely a surprise (Bruce Smithson). Then later about the first of February, the birds really started showing up. Some initial sightings included one at Southern Shores, NC Feb. 2 (Jeff Lewis & Joan Kutulas), an injured one at Rodanthe, NC Feb. 3 (Ed Hiestand), two-to-three at Rodanthe Feb. 6–7 (Lewis, Rich & Susan Boyd), one at Oregon Inlet, NC Feb. 7 (*fide* Ned Brinkley), one at Nags Head, NC Feb. 8 (Lewis), and two-to-three at Pea Island NWR, NC Feb. 8 (Norm Budnitz). Several were seen at Pea

Island Feb. 12 with one being injured (Lewis, Russ & Patricia Tyndall). On the pelagic trip out of Hatteras, a total of eight were seen Feb. 15 (Brian Patteson et al.). Two were seen at Kill Devil Hills and one was at Nags Head February 14 (Will Cook). On Feb. 16, two specimens were obtained, one at Avon and the other at Pea Island (Brad Carlson et al.). Two were still at Pea Island Feb. 18, as noted by Jeff Pippen. In South Carolina, where the species is much rarer, one was seen flying into the harbor at Sullivans Island Feb. 26, as noted by David Abbott.

RAZORBILL: As can be expected during an alcid invasion, Razorbills were present in good numbers. The best counts received were the 200+ from Pea Island NWR, NC Feb. 12 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall), 75+ near Salvo, NC Feb. 15 (Eric Dean), 59 on the pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC Feb. 15 (Brian Patteson et al.), and 40 off of C. Lookout, NC Jan. 28 (Robin Baird). Other reports included 22 "large alcid sp." (most assuredly Razorbills) on the Bodie-Pea Island CBC Dec. 29 (George Armistead), five at Ocracoke, NC Feb. 18 (Peter Vankevich), four at Kill Devil Hills, NC Feb. 14 (Will Cook), and several in the Rodanthe area Feb. 5-11 (Jeff Lewis, Rich & Susan Boyd). Farther south, reports involved one at Bald Head Island, NC Jan. 5 (Derb Carter), two at Wrightsville Beach, NC Jan. 4 (Carter) and two there again Feb. 28 (Carter).

BLACK GUILLEMOT: North Carolina's second report of Black Guillemot was of one in the surf at Kill Devil Hills Feb. 15 (Scott Baron). The bird was well described by the observer who watched it at varying distances for over an hour. Unfortunately, the bird was not found again after the initial discovery.

LONG-BILLED MURRELET: North Carolina's second Long-billed Murrelet was found in the surf at Ft. Macon, NC Dec. 15 (Eric Dean, Sharon Funderburk, Tommy Wade). Although the observation was brief, the bird was seen well. As with the previously mentioned Guillemot, this bird was not seen by others later that day, despite intensive searching.

BARN OWL: It is a memorable event to be able to see a family of this very local, uncommon owl. Of note was a nest with four young in a silo at L. Mattamuskeet, NC (Kelly Davis, sev. obs.). Three of the young fledged successfully in January.

LONG-EARED OWL: Rare and unexpected was a Long-eared found injured in Raleigh, NC Jan. 8 (*fide* Will Cook). Unfortunately, the bird was too injured to be released and was delivered to a wildlife rehabilitator for keeping (Steve Stone).

SHORT-EARED OWL: Sightings of note included one in the mountains at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC Dec. 11 (Danny Swicegood, Wayne Forsythe), six at South Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC Feb. 8 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), one at L. Mattamuskeet, NC Dec. 28 (John Fussell), one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Dec. 7 (Tim Kalbach, Gary Sowell), one on the McClellanville, SC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Perry Nugent), and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC Jan. 26 & Feb. 19 (Steve Calver).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: Only a handful of Saw-whets were found this winter. Two were on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 30 (John Fussell et al., Ricky Davis), three were along the Hammock Hills Trail, Ocracoke Island, NC Feb. 7–8 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), and one was heard calling in the Mt. Mitchell, NC area Feb. 22 (Stu Gibeau).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: A female of this species was found dead at Folly Beach, SC Jan. 29 (Nathan Dias, Donna Forsythe). This specimen, sent to the Charleston Museum, provided only about the second documented winter record for the state.

WHIP-POOR-WILL: This species was also found with a male being picked up on Bald Head Island, NC Feb. 9 (Allison Sill et al., Kate Finlayson, Chris Canfield). Another was seen in flight at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Dec. 23 (Steve Calver).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: This species seems to keep increasing as a winter resident along the immediate coast. Of particular interest was the report of up to 12 at a feeder in the L. Mattamuskeet, NC area in December (Kelly Davis). And very unusual far inland was the adult male that wintered at Simpsonville, SC (Pete Worthington).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: The number of Black-chinned Hummingbirds in the Carolinas also increased. There were three adult males found this winter with birds at feeders in Shipwatch, New Hanover County, NC mid-Dec.–Jan. 23 (Ricky Davis, Sam Cooper), Sunset Beach, NC Jan. 12–early March (Mary McDavit), and on Edisto Island, SC Feb. 17 (Gary Phillips). Others included a 2nd-year female banded at James Island, SC Jan. 22 (Phillips), an adult female banded at N. Myrtle Beach, SC Feb. 23 (Phillips), an imm. male at Brevard, NC Dec. 14 (*fide* Norma Siebenheller, Wayne Forsythe), and one in Bethania, Forsyth County, NC Nov. 25–Jan. 10 (Ramona Snavely, Linda Davis).

CALLOPE HUMMINGBIRD: Calliope also increased with at least seven reports. An imm. male was banded near Cayce, SC Dec. 7 (Gary Phillips), another imm. male was banded at Greensboro, NC Dec. 11 (Susan Campbell), the adult male near Hillsborough, NC from the fall was last seen Jan. 23 (Ginger Travis), an imm. male was in Charlotte, NC Dec. 16–Jan. 3 (Harriett Whitsett), a female was in Charlotte Jan. 13–23 (*fide* Susan Campbell), an imm. male was in Irmo, SC Jan. 28–Feb. 8 (Jerry Griggs), and an imm. male was near L. Hartwell, Pickens County, SC most of the winter (*fide* Susan Campbell).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Reports of this species were once again too numerous to mention. A couple of reports were of particular interest however. A female recaptured in Shelby, NC was documented as returning for its fourth year in a row, a record for North Carolina (Susan Campbell). Also a male banded in Raleigh, NC in the winter of 2002 was found to have spent the summer and is still present at this time (Campbell). This is most likely the first record of a summering Rufous in the East!

WESTERN KINGBIRD: Always noteworthy in winter, this season's sightings included single birds at Southern Shores, NC Dec. 15 (*fide* Jeff

Lewis), at Alligator River NWR, NC Dec. 22 (Lewis, Wayne Irvin), along the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway Jan. 7–19 (Howard Vainright, Brad & Pat Carlson, Carolina Bird Club), and on Bull Island, Charleston County, SC Jan. 5 (Nathan Dias et al.).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: There were several interesting reports of this local, uncommon species in North Carolina this winter. One of the most encouraging was the total of 32 found on the Raven Rock St. Pk., NC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Paul Hart), most likely a record count for the Carolinas. Elsewhere four was a good count at Ft. Fisher Dec. 8 (Shantanu Phukan). Single shrikes at Atlantic Beach Dec. 15 (*fide* John Fussell) and at N. Topsail Beach Dec. 28 (Nell Moore, Jim & Laura O'Donnell) were great finds since they had not been seen in those areas for many years. Also one was locally unusual in the mountains near Turkey Knob, Alleghany County Dec. 10 (James Coman).

HORNED LARK: Good numbers were present at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC this winter with up to 100 being counted during January (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: Very rare in winter, one-to-two Rough-wingeds were good finds at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Jan. 19 (Pete Worthington).

CAVE SWALLOW: The most impressive invasion of this species on the East Coast, which started during late fall, continued this winter with many reports being received. The Sunset Beach, NC area had birds until at least Dec. 7 (Rich & Susan Boyd, Sam Cooper) with the best totals being 15 on the 1st (Keith Camburn, Heathey Walker) and an impressive 40 on the 2nd (Ritch Lilly). The nearby Ocean Isle, NC area had four Dec. 1 (Brad Carlson, Wayne Irvin) and two were at Long Beach, NC Dec. 6–8 (Mike Tove). Also one at Ft. Macon, NC Dec. 3 (Bob Holmes) was the farthest north in the Carolinas reported. In South Carolina, two were at the Caw Caw Park, Ravenel Dec. 1 (Lilly), two were at Garden City Dec. 5 (Lilly), two were at the Santee Coastal Reserve Dec. 6 (Lloyd Moon), and five were noted at Huntington Beach St. Pk. Dec. 7 (Tim Kalbach, Gary Sowell). The birds were also present by the end of the month on into January. Two were noted at Carolina Beach, NC Dec. 25 (Derb Carter) until at least Jan. 5 (Ricky Davis) with the birds being counted on the Wilmington CBC Jan. 4 (Taylor Piephoff et al.). One was still present farther up the coast at Onslow Beach, NC Jan. 4 (Jamie Cameron). On the Southport CBC Jan 5, one was seen in the Sunny Point Terminal area of Brunswick County, as noted by Sam Cooper. In South Carolina, two were at Savannah NWR Jan 4 (Kathleen O'Grady, Carroll Richard) with one still present as late as Jan. 19 (Robin Carter & Caroline Eastman). At Huntington Beach St. Pk., several were present from Jan. 11 (Bob Maxwell, Jack Peachey) until at least Jan. 19 (Pete Worthington), with a peak of four there Jan. 13 (Ritch Lilly).

BARN SWALLOW: Notable winter sightings included three at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC Dec. 6 (Lloyd Moon), one at Carolina Beach, NC Dec. 25 (Derb Carter), and two on the Santee, SC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Lex Glover).

HOUSE WREN: A House Wren at Table Rock St. Pk., SC Feb. 5 & 15 (Scott Stegenga) was quite unusual at that elevation in winter.

GRAY CATBIRD: This species is normally absent from the Piedmont in winter, thus of note were one on the Falls L., NC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Brian Bockhahn), one on the Charlotte, NC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Wayne Covington), one amazingly in the mountains on the Balsam, NC CBC Jan. 4 (*fide* Bob Olthoff), and one at Wake Forest, NC Jan. 18 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

AMERICAN PIPIT: In what must be a record count for the Carolinas, an estimated 12,000 pipits flew by Ft. Moultrie, SC in one hour Jan. 23 during a snowstorm (Nathan Dias, Burton Moore).

CEDAR WAXWING: This species invaded the Outer Banks area of North Carolina this winter in large numbers. Thousands were present along Hwy. 12 from Pea Island NWR south through Ocracoke. Several thousand were in the village of Ocracoke Feb. 14, and at least 3,000 were near Avon Feb. 19 (Peter Vankevich). An estimate of 5,000 came from Hatteras north to Pea Island Feb. 14–18 (Jeff Pippen).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Rare in winter away from the Coastal Plain, single Orange-crowned were good finds on the Chapel Hill, NC CBC Dec. 22 (Will Cook et al.) and the Charlotte, NC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Wayne Covington).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: This winter's reports involved up to two at Caw Caw Park, Ravenel, SC Jan. 8–Feb. 5 (Perry Nugent et al.), one at Magnolia Plantation, SC Dec. 8 (Nugent et al.), one along the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway Dec. 7 (Ricky Davis), and one on the Morehead City, NC CBC Dec. 15 (John & Paula Wright).

NORTHERN PARULA: This species was present in the Carolinas this winter more than usual. One was on the Sun City–Okatie, SC CBC Dec. 15 (*fide* Helen Chatterton), one was at Ft. Fisher, NC Dec. 28–Jan. 5 (John Brunjes, Ricky Davis), two were along the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway Dec. 28 (Jeff Lewis), and one was on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 30 (Paul Sykes).

CAPE MAY WARBLER: There were two reports of this rare wintering warbler this season. One was on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway Dec. 28 (Jeff Lewis) and one was at a feeder in Wake Forest, NC from early Jan. until at least mid.-Feb. (*fide* John Connors).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: Another species of warbler present along the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway this winter was a Black-throated Blue Dec. 7 (Ricky Davis) and Dec. 28 (Jeff Lewis) until at least Jan. 18 (Carolina Bird Club).

“AUDUBON’S” YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: A female was seen well at the Frisco, NC airstrip area Jan. 19 (Bob Perkins). Reports of this rare western form need to be detailed so as to rule out the possibility of hybrids with the “Myrtle” form.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: One was an excellent find at L. Norman, NC Jan. 5, as noted by Tomm Lorenzin. The bird, a female,

provided about the 5th report for the state. Unfortunately, the bird was not relocated the following day.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: One was a very rare winter find at Beaufort, NC Jan. 19 (Taylor Piephoff, Rob Van Epps).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: This species wintered in the Carolinas in good numbers this winter. Some of the more interesting reports involved eight on the Hilton Head Island, SC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Nan Lloyd), three on the Southport, NC CBC Jan. 5 (Mark Galizio, Harry LeGrand, Taylor Piephoff et al.), one at the Savannah River Site, SC Dec. 19 (*fide* Adrienne DeBiase), one on the Santee, SC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Lex Glover), one on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 30 (Paul Sykes), and one on the Kitty Hawk, NC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Jeff Lewis).

PRAIRIE WARBLER: Locally unusual winter sightings of this species included three on the Santee, SC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Lex Glover), two on the Alligator River, NC CBC Dec. 22 (*fide* Jeff Lewis), two on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC Dec. 28 (Lewis), and one in a Morehead City, NC yard Dec. 21 (John Fussell).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: Some excellent totals of this regularly wintering warbler were reported. The best were 14 on the Hilton Head Island, SC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Nan Lloyd), eight on the Savannah River Site, SC CBC Dec. 19 (*fide* Adrienne DeBiase), and six on the Santee, SC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Lex Glover). The farthest inland were one on the Chapel Hill, NC CBC Dec. 22 (Jeff Pippen, Toni Rexrode) and two on the L. Wateree, SC CBC Jan. 4 (*fide* Donna Slyce).

AMERICAN REDSTART: A sighting of redstart in the Carolinas was left out of last winter's report. One was at a feeder in Seneca, SC Jan. 1 & Feb. 3, 2002, as noted by Bruce Glick. Winter redstarts are very rarely reported in our area and most are found along the immediate coast.

OVENBIRD: One was present in a Southern Shores, NC yard at least until Feb. 5 (Joan Kutulas, Jeff Lewis). This is somewhat north of the usual wintering area around Buxton on the Outer Banks.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: This species is almost annual in the Carolinas during winter. Sightings of note this season included one at Walker's Millpond, Carteret County, NC Dec. 12 & 15 (John Fussell), which provided the first known local wintering report. Also at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC where the species is somewhat regular, one was seen Jan. 4 (Dennis Forsythe) and three were found Feb. 19 (Steve Calver).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT: Rare in winter away from the Coastal Plain were singles on the Southern L. Norman, NC CBC Dec. 15 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff) and on the Balsam, NC CBC Jan. 4 (*fide* Bob Olthoff).

WILSON'S WARBLER: Another somewhat regular-in-winter warbler is the Wilson's. Sightings this season involved a male on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway Dec. 7 (Derb Carter, Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis), one at the Savannah NWR, SC in early January (*fide* Robin Carter), and a female at a feeder in Simpsonville, SC Feb. 24 (Pete Worthington).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Noteworthy sightings included three on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway Dec. 28 (Jeff Lewis), two at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Dec. 23 (Steve Calver), one on the Morehead City, NC CBC Dec. 15 (Eric Dean, Sharon Funderburk), one at a feeder in Sumter, SC Jan. 17 (*fide* Evelyn Dabbs), and one at Fountain Inn, Greenville County, SC Jan. 24 (Pete Worthington).

WESTERN TANAGER: Western Tanagers staged a minor “invasion” into the Carolinas this winter. In Morehead City, NC, a female was present in a yard from Dec. 26 through February (John Fussell). Amazingly, this bird was joined by a second female during part of January! Elsewhere a female was seen at Buxton on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 30 (Ricky Davis), one was found on the ACE Basin, SC CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Pete Laurie), and a male was present at a feeder in Summerville, SC Jan. 28 through February (Shirley Hales).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: One on the Morehead City, NC CBC Dec. 15 (John & Paula Wright) was the only one reported this winter.

VESPER SPARROW: A count of 20 Vespers at Townsville, SC Feb. 9 (Jim Edwards) was quite noteworthy considering that this species has been hard to find and in reduced numbers for many years now.

LARK SPARROW: This winter’s Lark Sparrow reports included two on the Wayne County, NC CBC Dec. 14 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall, Ricky Davis) for the second year in a row, and one on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 30 (Susan Campbell).

SAVANNAH “IPSWICH” SPARROW: An excellent count of this strictly coastal form was the 14 in about a mile of dunes at Coquina Beach, north of Oregon Inlet, NC Feb. 17 (Bob Anderson).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Always noteworthy finds in winter, two were on the Savannah River Site, SC CBC Dec. 19 (*fide* Adrienne DeBiase); one was on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 30 (Wayne Irvin); one was on the Pee Dee, NC CBC Jan. 4 (*fide* Laura Fogo); and one was on the Tryon, NC CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Simon Thompson) for a very unusual mountain sighting during the winter.

HENSLOW’S SPARROW: Reports were down this winter with one on the Charleston, SC CBC Jan. 5 (*fide* Bob Chinn), one on the Pettigrew, NC CBC Dec. 30 (*fide* Lisa Williams), and four on the Savannah River Site, SC CBC Dec. 19 (*fide* Adrienne DeBiase).

LE CONTE’S SPARROW: The only reports received involved two on the Santee, SC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Lex Glover) and one on the Sun City–Okatie, SC CBC Dec. 15 (*fide* Helen Chatterton).

NELSON’S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: One was present near Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC Feb. 15 until the spring (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, sev. obs.). This is most likely the first inland winter record for the Carolinas, certainly for the mountain region.

LINCOLN’S SPARROW: Numbers of this regular wintering species were down this year. The only reports received involved two on the Long Cane, SC CBC Dec. 21 (Lex Glover et al.; Don & Steve Cox); two on the

Southport, NC CBC Jan. 5 (Greg Massey et al.); one at the Congaree Swamp National Monument, SC Jan. 20 (Robin Carter); and one on the Balsam, NC CBC Jan. 4 (*fide* Bob Olthoff) providing a very rare mountain winter sighting.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: A count of 51 White-crowneds at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Dec. 23 (Steve Calver) was impressive for that southern coastal locality.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Two were good finds on the Chapel Hill, NC CBC Dec. 22 (Derb Carter). The birds were seen by others until at least Jan. 20 (Taylor Piephoff et al.). At Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC, 6–8 were seen Jan. 5 (Simon Thompson et al.) and an impressive flock of 28 was there Feb. 6 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), easily setting a record count for the mountains.

SNOW BUNTING: The only Snow Buntings reported this winter were in the mountains where six were along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Parkway School, Watauga County, NC Jan. 6 (*fide* Walt Conway).

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: A first-winter male showed up at a feeder in Elizabeth City, NC Feb. 8 until some time in April (Shirley Remaley). This bird, the first for our area in several years, was seen by many and photographed during its stay.

INDIGO BUNTING: Very rare inland sightings in the winter were provided by two on the Long Cane, SC CBC Dec. 21 (Steve Wagner et al.; Lex Glover et al.) and one in southwestern Randolph County, NC Dec. 23–29 (Jane Lewis).

PAINTED BUNTING: Always noteworthy in winter, Painted Buntings found included singles on the Morehead City, NC CBC Dec. 15 (*fide* John Fussell), on the Congaree Swamp, SC CBC Dec. 15 (*fide* Robin Carter), on the L. Mattamuskeet, NC CBC Dec. 28 (Allen Bryan), on the Southport, NC CBC Jan. 5 (Ricky Davis), on the Litchfield–Pawleys Island, SC CBC Dec. 30 (Jack Peachey), and at a feeder in Harleyville, SC in January (*fide* Nathan Dias).

DICKCISSEL: Interesting reports included a female in a yard at Myrtle Beach, SC Dec. 10 (Phil & Sharon Turner, Ritch Lilly) and a female present from the fall at a feeder in Nags Head, NC at least until January (Skip & Linda Morgan).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: A female found on the Pee Dee, NC CBC Jan. 4 (*fide* Laura Fogo) was the only one reported this winter.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: This winter's sightings involved 29 on the Clemson, SC CBC Dec. 14 (*fide* Drew Lanham), 20 at the Pungo unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC Dec. 22 (Rich & Susan Boyd), and one on the Pee Dee, NC CBC Jan. 4 (*fide* Laura Fogo).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Baltimore Orioles wintered in the Carolinas in good numbers this winter. There were several areas reporting a dozen or more such as the L. Mattamuskeet, NC causeway with 12 on Dec. 28 (Jeff Lewis).

EVENING GROSBEAK: Once again, this species was more or less absent from our area. The 12 reported on the Jordan L., NC CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Norm Budnitz) were almost unbelievable!

BIRDS OF THE CAROLINAS RESEARCH & PROGRAMMING GRANTS

The Carolina Bird Club, Ornithological Society of the Carolinas, announces the availability of funds to support student research concerning North and/or South Carolina birds or secondary school programming designed to promote an interest by students in birds. We anticipate that up to four awards will be made to institutions in North and South Carolina to support research projects or bird-related programming. The average award will be up to \$500.

Applications should be made through an educational or non-profit institution. For student research projects, applications require the sponsorship of a faculty member and approval of the institution's authorized signatory. For secondary school programming, applications require a letter of support from the school principal and approval of the institution's authorized signatory. Applications should be prepared directly by the applicant and should include a scope of work (limited to two single-spaced pages), a budget with a budget justification, biographical sketch of the applicant, indicating course work and other activities that would indicate that the applicant is capable of performing the described project, and a letter from the faculty sponsor or school principal. Allowable costs include but are not necessarily limited to laboratory supplies and limited travel to research sites. The Carolina Bird Club does not support institutional indirect costs.

Awardees must file a final report, including an accounting of expenditures and a summary of research or programming, no later than 45 days following the close of the grant period. Any unused funds must be returned to CBC no later than 45 days following the close of the grant period. Significant research findings will be reviewed for possible publication in *The Chat*.

Application receipt deadline is Friday, 10 October 2003. Grant project periods will begin 14 November 2003.

Original and five copies should be sent to:

Bob Ellis, CBC Grants Committee Chairperson
PO Box 6287
Columbia, SC 29260

Email any questions to ellis29205@aol.com.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

MEMBERSHIP

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc. is a non-profit educational and scientific association founded in 1937. Membership is open to those interested in the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club may be deductible from state and federal income and estate taxes. Checks should be made payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. and sent to CBC Headquarters, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-1029.

DUES

(Payable on a calendar-year basis)

Individual	\$20.00
Associate (in same household as individual member).....	\$5.00
Student.....	\$15.00
Sustaining (open to businesses)	\$25.00
Patron.....	\$50.00+
Life Membership (payable in four consecutive \$100 installments)	\$400.00

PUBLICATIONS

CBC members receive *The Chat*, a quarterly journal devoted to bird study and conservation, and the CBC Newsletter, which carries information about meetings, field trips, and club projects. Articles intended for publication in *The Chat* may be sent to the Editor or the appropriate editor listed in the inside front cover. Items for the Newsletter should be sent to its Editor, Karen Bearden, 1809 Lakepark Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612. Send correspondence regarding memberships, changes of address, or requests for back numbers of either publication to CBC Headquarters, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-1029.

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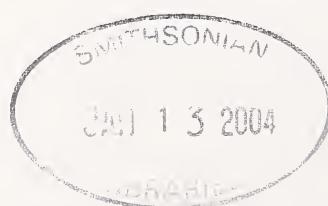
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Fall 2002 North American Migration Count in South Carolina

Donna Slyce

321 Hope Ferry Road, Lexington, SC 29072

The Fall 2002 North American Migration Count was held on 21 September 2002, and 76 parties of 127 individual observers afield in 13 counties across the state counted 31,997 individual birds of 190 species. The temperatures for the day were relatively seasonal for South Carolina, mild in most of the state and a little warmer on the Coastal Plain. Three Upstate counties, Cherokee, Greenville and Spartanburg, reported rain and significant cloud cover on count day. Most counties reported no significant wind, with only four counties reporting winds serious enough to possibly affect birding.

In years past, tables with partial data on warblers were presented. This year, in order to give a more complete picture, Table 1 illustrates four years' data on warblers. No clear trends are evident. A possible trend is the consistency in the numbers of individuals reported for some species, particularly Tennessee, Blackburnian and Worm-eating Warblers. Other species illustrate wide swings in numbers of individuals reported from year to year. For one species, Yellow-rumped Warbler, the swings in number can possibly be explained by the timing of the count. The fall count is always held on the third Saturday of September, but this means that the date of the count moves through a range of dates from 15 September through 21 September. In 1999 the count was conducted on 18 September, in 2000 on 16 September, in 2001 on 15 September, and in 2002 on 21 September. The number of Yellow-rumped Warblers is higher in the years the count was held at a later date in the month. Some species are conspicuous by their absence, including Bay-breasted, Connecticut and Cerulean Warblers.

Among the widespread species reported from every county were Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, Pine Warbler, and Northern Cardinal. As in fall of 2001, Mourning Dove was the most numerous of the widespread species, with 1208 individuals reported. In 2002, a year that saw an expansion of the epidemic of West Nile Virus among birds, particularly corvids, American Crow increased in reported numbers to take over as the second most numerous species. In 2002, 955 American Crows were reported, up from 897 in 2001, 691 in 2000, and 607 in 1999. Northern Cardinal, the second most numerous species in 2001, was the third most numerous species in 2002, with 895 individuals. Interestingly, Blue Jay also increased in numbers in 2002: 824 individuals were reported, up from 332 in 2001, 393 in 2000, and 488 in 1999.

Table 1. Warbler Counts for Four Years

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Blue-winged Warbler	5	4	1	3
Golden-winged Warbler	3	3	0	4
Tennessee Warbler	7	7	7	8
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	2	0	0
Nashville Warbler	0	5	2	2
Northern Parula	56	73	81	66
Yellow Warbler	9	14	3	10
Chestnut-sided Warbler	16	38	34	17
Magnolia Warbler	24	31	27	39
Cape May Warbler	0	1	1	3
Black-throated Blue Warbler	6	8	6	8
Yellow-rumped Warbler	15	2	5	12
Black-throated Green Warbler	6	3	12	1
Blackburnian Warbler	4	3	4	7
Yellow-throated Warbler	11	11	6	9
Pine Warbler	273	250	190	346
Prairie Warbler	7	24	20	8
Palm Warbler	104	38	20	23
Bay-breasted Warbler	0	0	0	0
Blackpoll Warbler	0	0	2	4
Cerulean Warbler	0	0	0	0
Black-and-white Warbler	43	30	37	31
American Redstart	117	165	153	84
Prothonotary Warbler	3	1	2	0
Worm-eating Warbler	2	2	1	1
Swainson's Warbler	0	0	2	0
Ovenbird	1	3	5	4
Northern Waterthrush	23	14	7	6
Louisiana Waterthrush	6	1	1	0
Kentucky Warbler	0	0	0	1
Connecticut Warbler	0	0	0	0
Common Yellowthroat	82	262	102	92
Hooded Warbler	10	7	12	14
Wilson's Warbler	0	0	0	2
Canada Warbler	0	2	0	0
Yellow-breasted Chat	4	3	1	5
TOTALS	838	1007	744	810

Among the highlights of the Fall 2002 North American Migration Count are the more than 3000 Chimney Swifts reported in Cherokee County, Bank

Swallow in Aiken County, King Rail and Swamp Sparrow in Charleston County, Black-billed Cuckoo and Warbling Vireo in Greenville County, American Bittern in Orangeburg County, Least Flycatcher in Lexington County, early Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Spartanburg County, and late Mississippi Kite in Sumter County. Fifty species were “exclusives”, found only in one county (Table 2).

Table 2. Number of County Exclusives

Aiken	3
Calhoun	1
Charleston	19
Cherokee	1
Chester	1
Colleton	2
Greenville	9
Hampton	1
Lexington	1
Orangeburg	3
Spartanburg	8
Sumter	1

County Summaries

Aiken County (AIKE): 101 species, 6037 individuals.

Coordinator: Anne Waters
 1621 Apple Valley Drive
 Augusta, GA 30906
 706-793-2788

Participants: John Connally, John Demko, Nancy Demko, Carol Eldridge, Larry Eldridge, Gary Gray, Judy Gregory, Christine Huzella, James Keener, Paul Koehler, Betsy Ristroph, Alice Walker, Doug Walker, Vernon Waters, Calvin Zippler

Aiken's exclusives were a diverse mix of genera and habitat types, from *Tringa* to *Catharus*, from marsh to deep woods. Those species exclusive to Aiken were Solitary Sandpiper, Bank Swallow, and Hermit Thrush.

Beaufort County (BEAU): 28 species, 214 individuals.

Coordinator: Bryan Fluech
 26B Tidal Bluff Road
 Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
 843-342-7157

Participants: Bryan Fluech

A one-person, partial-day count, Beaufort County reported good numbers of waders and even a migrant warbler or two, including both American Redstart and Palm Warbler.

Calhoun County (CALH): 54 species, 606 individuals.

Coordinator: Robin Carter
4165 East Buchanan Drive
Columbia, SC 29206
803-788-8820

Participants: Andy Dapkins, Steve Dennis, Ida Frueh, Paul Frueh, Steve Tracey

Receiving more thorough coverage than it ever has, Calhoun County reported a nice exclusive, Bobolink. Calhoun County also reported four of the possible six brown-backed thrushes. Almost all of the thrushes were detected by nocturnal listening, including a late Wood Thrush.

Charleston County (CHAR): 125 species, 8018 individuals.

Coordinator: Perry Nugent
2260 Dallerton Circle
Charleston, SC 29414
843-556-3841

Participants: Mrs. M. A. Aldenderfer, Sue Ann Russell, Allen Russell, Jim Brownlee, Sue Brownlee, Ronnie Riddle, Ann Kent, Betty Zimmerman, Martha Stevenot, Joe Stevenot, Craig Watson, Steve Lohr, Bill Tuomey, Edward Conradi, Sandra Conradi, Sara Saksewski

Among Charleston's amazing 19 exclusives were the previously mentioned King Rail and Swamp Sparrow, as well as Clapper Rail, Black Skimmer, American White Pelican, Least Tern, Marbled Godwit, Glossy Ibis, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and Mottled Duck.

Cherokee County (CHER): 69 species, 3888 individuals.

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307
864-585-1228

Participants: Claude Cobb, Ken Garrett, J. B. Hines, Karla Lavender, Scott Lavender, John Martin, Maxi Nix, Tina Pearsall, Alan Rose, Ed Wilde, Les Young

Cherokee was the only county reporting an early Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, as well as the previously mentioned large number of Chimney Swifts. Among other interesting species reported by Cherokee County were Blackpoll Warbler and Magnolia Warbler.

Chester County (CHES): 40 species, 617 individuals.

Coordinator: Gail B. Ice
2356 Arabian
York, SC 29445
803-684-3242

Participants: Gail B. Ice, Gail C. Ice

Chester had a nice exclusive in Northern Harrier. Also interesting to find as far inland as Chester County was Spotted Sandpiper. A somewhat early Pied-billed Grebe was also reported by Chester County.

Colleton County (COLL): 79 species, 1518 individuals.

Coordinator: Sharon Brown
PO Box 327
Adams Run, SC 29426
843-889-8299

Participants: Sharon Brown

Despite the difficulty of conducting a one-person count on a quiet day, Colleton County still reported two exclusives, Gull-billed Tern and Short-billed Dowitcher. Colleton County also reported some nice migrating warblers, American Redstart and Black-throated Blue Warbler, and four frustratingly silent empids.

Greenville County (GREE): 94 species, 4400 individuals.

Coordinator: Peter L. Worthington
716 North Almond Drive
Simpsonville, SC 29681
864-967-4183

Participants: Elaine Brown, Preston Davies, Harry Davis, Elizabeth Galloway, Charles Jones, Linda Jones, Len Kopka, Jane Kramer, Eric McFalls, James McDicken, Cole Perry, Hilda Rees, Linda Sharp, Norm Sharp, Paul Shewmaker, Donna Slyce

Among Greenville County's nine exclusives were species generally present year-round in the mountains, Blue-headed Vireo and Dark-eyed Junco. Also exclusive to Greenville County were Black-billed Cuckoo, Willow Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, and Blackburnian Warbler.

Hampton County (HAMP): 62 species, 514 individuals.

Coordinator: Carroll Richard
PO Box 893
Hampton, SC 29924
803-943-4661

Participants: Jerry Raymond

Hampton County's exclusive was an excellent bird for count day, a Kentucky Warbler. In the same brush pile as the Kentucky Warbler was also a really nice-to-find Wilson's Warbler. And the finishing touch on a nice day of warblers in the Lowcountry was a Tennessee Warbler. All were seen at Webb WMA.

Lexington County (LEXI): 63 species, 1249 individuals.

Coordinator: Molly Bonnell
202 Cannon Trail Road
Lexington, SC 29072
803-359-6280

Participants: Andrea Ceselski

Lexington County reported an excellent *Empidonax* to find at any time in the state, a Least Flycatcher.

Orangeburg County (ORAN): 37 species, 274 individuals.

Coordinator: Robin Carter
4165 East Buchanan Drive
Columbia, SC 29206
803-788-8820

Participants: Andy Dapkins, Steve Dennis, Ida Frueh, Paul Frueh, Steve Tracey

Despite the limited duration and scope of coverage of two hours surveying the Orangeburg sod farm area, Orangeburg County still reported three nice exclusives: American Bittern, Upland Sandpiper, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

Spartanburg County (SPAR): 95 species, 4001 individuals.

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307
864-585-1228

Participants: Laura Bannon, David Barry, Drew Barry, John Barry, Susan Barry, Anna Bennett, Susan Bennett, Tim Brown, Lawanna Campnell, Sarah Campbell, Elaine Cheek, Dan Codispoti, Linda Deahl, Richard Deahl, Charles Earl, Glenn Englehardt, Tim Foster, Robin Gilman, John Green, Dennis Funk, Conway Henderson, Connie Jenne, Ron Jenne, Joel Jones, Herb Kay, Tammy King, Edwin Marotte, Mary Ann Myers, Angela Miller, Mike Miller, Jim Miller, Margaret Miller, Moss Miller, Sam Miller, Bill Moody, Virl Momier, Jack Mulvaney, Nancy Owens, Bob Powell, Sandra Powell, Ginny Scott, Walton Scott, Genevieve Sullivan, Laurel Sullivan, Gerald Thurmond, John Turner, M. B. Ulmer

Spartanburg County reported an excellent number of exclusives. Several of Spartanburg's exclusives were somewhat early including Green-winged Teal, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow. Also exclusive to Spartanburg County were Worm-eating Warbler, Nashville Warbler, and lingering Purple Martin.

Sumter County (SUMT): 95 species, 4001 individuals.

Coordinator: Lloyd Moon
6150 Brookland Drive
Sumter, SC 29154
803-494-3234

Participants: Ward N. Moon

Sumter County reported a very nice exclusive, a somewhat late Mississippi Kite. Sumter County also reported a nice-to-find migrant, Northern Waterthrush, and a nice-to-find at the inland location species, White Ibis.

Table 3 North American Migration Count in South Carolina 21 September 2002

# Counties Reporting	8	11	11	8	8	7	4	4	2	2	6	4	2	8
TOTAL	73	236	111	419	8	330	7	8	2	2	6	1	1	8
SUMT	2	18	158	111	111	50	25	25	274	2	3	1	1	3
SPAR	1	19	158	13	2	50	291	1	1	2	3	1	10	14
ORAN	9											1	5	3
LEXI	15	11	7	6				1		2			3	
HAMP	54							3					2	
GREE		22	15	23	9					2			11	1
COLL	2	19	3					2	3					1
CHES	10	9	16	1				2	1	2			2	
CHER	7	10	27					2	2	2				3
CHAR	18	65	284	5	25	269		12	5	2	1	2	1	1
CALH	2	3						2	2	3	1	1	1	1
BEAU								2						
AIKE	31	15	71	8	45			1	1	17	1	8	5	1

Black Vulture	Blue-winged Teal	American Kestrel
Turkey Vulture	Green-winged Teal	Merlin
Canada Goose	Mississippi Kite	Wild Turkey
Wood Duck	Bald Eagle	Northern Bobwhite
Mallard	Northern Harrier	
Mottled Duck	Sharp-shinned Hawk	
	Cooper's Hawk	
	Red-shouldered Hawk	
	Broad-winged Hawk	
	Red-tailed Hawk	

# Counties Reporting	1	1	4	4	1	2	1	1
TOTAL	125	1	218	16	15	20	11	1

SUMT

SPAR

ORAN

LEXI

HAMP

GREE

COLL

CHES

CHER

CHAR

CALH

BEAU

AIKE

Clapper Rail
 King Rail
 Common Moorhen
 American Coot
 Black-bellied Plover
 Semipalmated Plover
 Killdeer
 American Oystercatcher
 Greater Yellowlegs
 Lesser Yellowlegs
 Solitary Sandpiper
 Willet
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Upland Sandpiper
 Marbled Godwit
 Ruddy Turnstone
 Sandpiper
 Semipalmated Sandpiper
 Western Sandpiper
 Least Sandpiper
 peep sp.

	# Counties Reporting	TOTAL	18	4	3	2	10	7	10	9	10	70	10	4373	10
SUMT															
SPAR															
ORAN															
LEXI															
HAMP															
GREE															
COLL															
CHES															
CHER															
CHAR															
CALH															
BEAU															
AIKE															

Common Nighthawk
 Whip-poor-will
 Chimney Swift
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
 Belted Kingfisher
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Red-cockaded Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Eastern Wood-Pewee
 Acadian Flycatcher
 Willow Flycatcher
 Least Flycatcher
 Empidonax sp.
 Eastern Phoebe
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Eastern Kingbird

- Loggerhead Shrike
- White-eyed Vireo
- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Blue-headed Vireo
- Warbling Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Blue Jay
- American Crow
- Fish Crow
- crow sp.
- Horned Lark
- Purple Martin
- Tree Swallow
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow
- Bank Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Carolina Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Brown-headed Nuthatch
- Carolina Wren

House Wren	
Marsh Wren	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	
Eastern Bluebird	
Veery	
	Gray-cheeked Thrush
	Swainson's Thrush
	Hermit Thrush
	Wood Thrush
	American Robin
	Gray Catbird
	Northern Mockingbird
	Brown Thrasher
	European Starling
	Cedar Waxwing
	Blue-winged Warbler
	Golden-winged Warbler
	Tennessee Warbler
	Nashville Warbler
	Northern Parula

# Counties Reporting	2	2	3	1	7	5	8	4
TOTAL	2	5	2	26	11	150	121	4
SUMT	1	1	4	28	20	6	39	5
SPAR	1	1	1	22	1	2	2	2
ORAN	3	1	15	22	1	7	12	4
LEXI	3	15	22	1	10	10	10	8
HAMP	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
GREE	1	2	2	42	23	1	3	2
COLL	2	22	2	2	16	16	16	16
CHES	12	11	10	1	1	1	1	1
CHER	4	26	2	1	1	1	1	1
CHAR	6	11	8	1	1	1	1	1
CALH	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
BEAU	9	22	7	18	161	133	38	13
AIKE	38	38	1	1	149	6	1	5
Wilson's Warbler	128	58	22	18	13	1	1	3
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	1	1	1	3	1	38	6
warbler sp.	45	4	13	3	12	2	6	85
Summer Tanager	29	4	13	16	2	2	20	3
Scarlet Tanager	45	4	16	1	34	105	6	1
Eastern Towhee	1	1	1	1	30	323	9	1
Chipping Sparrow	17	58	183	22	17	1	6	2
Field Sparrow	17	58	183	22	18	133	38	2
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Song Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Swamp Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
White-throated Sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dark-eyed Junco	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Northern Cardinal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Blue Grosbeak	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Indigo Bunting	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Painted Bunting	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bobolink	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Red-winged Blackbird	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Eastern Meadowlark	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Wilson's Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
warbler sp.
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Painted Bunting
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark

# Counties Reporting	TOTAL	121	7	985	27	20	3	1227	7
SUMT		91	8	290	1	17	5	351	3
SPAR		125	1	1	2	18	15	2841	7
ORAN						66	125	125	1
LEXI						6	10	20	2
HAMP						10	1	20	2
GREE						25	1	40	10
COLL						1	1	1	1
CHES						5	1	40	1
CHER						12	1	40	1
CHAR						125	1	1249	1
CALH						69	1	274	1
BEAU						40	1	4001	1
AIKE						79	1	95	1
		50	61	61	61	94	63	61	190
		2500	11	11	11	4400	514	661	31997
		125	45	45	45	1518	1249		
			16	16	16	6018	3888		
			28	54	28	8018	3888		
			1	1	1	10	7		
			1	1	1	17	11		
			1	1	1	10	7		
			1	1	1	17	2		
			1	1	1	11	2		
			1	1	1	12	2		
			1	1	1	12	2		
			1	1	1	17	2		
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- Common Grackle
- Boat-tailed Grackle
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- blackbird sp.
- Baltimore Oriole
- Purple Finch
- House Finch
- American Goldfinch
- House Sparrow

# Counties Reporting											
TOTAL											
HOURS BIKE	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	
HOURS OTHER	0	0	0	4.5	0	0	0	0	0	4.5	
MILES FOOT	14	1	20.8	7.5	4	25	10	-	0	23	5
MILES CAR	177	0	49	169	97	20+	213	137.5	191.5	6	112.3
MILES BOAT	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	309	80
MILES CANOE/KAYAK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1429
MILES BIKE	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
MILES OTHER	0	0	0	3.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hours Feeder Watch	2.25	0	0	8	5.5	0	0	16.25	0	0	66.5
#Feeder Watchers	4	0	0	3	6	0	0	8	0	0	98.6
#Feeder Stations	6	0	0	5	4	0	0	8	0	0	1
Hours Stationary	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	52
#Parties Stationary	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
#Observers Stationary	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hours Owling	0.75	0	2.5	1.5	0.25	1.5	0	1.25	0	0	1.5
Miles Owling	7	0	26	1	1	-	0	0	0	0	0

Counties
Reporting

TOTAL 11 13

	SUMT	SPAR	ORAN	LEXI	HAMP	GREE	COLL	CHES	CHER	CHAR	CALH	BEAU	AIKE
#parties owing	1	0	1	2	1	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
#observers owing	1	0	1	3	3	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
TIME START	6:00	8:00	4:00	4:30	6:00	6:00	7:15	6:30	6:45	8:30	14:00	6:00	6:55
TIME STOP	18:30	10:30	13:00	18:30	22:00	16:00	19:30	18:00	17:00	18:00	16:00	22:00	16:40
	65	68	77	71	-	-	68	-	68	-	69	-	71
	68	78	72	78	70	68	70	70	70	80	69	70	70
	74	84	74	80	72	80	70	70	70	80	70	72	80
	80	-	87	85	72	91	85	71	85	80	85	72	84
	86	-	-	80	72	80	87	72	89	87	93	72	88
	76	-	-	78	69	-	70	-	70	-	84	-	69
	74	-	-	-	69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69
TEMPERATURE: PRE-DAWN													
DAWN	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
AM	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
NOON	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	2
PM	1	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1
SUNSET	0	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1
NIGHT	0	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0

WIND:

PRE-DAWN	0
DAWN	0
AM	0
NOON	1
PM	1
SUNSET	0
NIGHT	0

Counties
Reporting

TOTAL

PRECIPITATION: PRE-DAWN	DAWN	AM	NOON	PM	SUNSET	NIGHT
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General Field Notes

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General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, or significant nesting records; or summaries of such items. Submit manuscripts to the appropriate state editor.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

First Record of the Western Flycatcher Complex in North Carolina

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On Saturday, 15 January 2000, at approximately 10:45 AM we discovered an *Empidonax* flycatcher sitting on a cable-fence a couple of feet off the ground along a gravel access road to Jordan Lake in Chatham County, NC. We immediately noticed the yellowish underparts and characteristically shaped eye-ring indicating that this bird belonged to the Pacific-slope (*E. difficilis*) / Cordilleran (*E. occidentalis*) group formerly lumped as "Western Flycatcher". We observed the bird from 30 to 50 feet away in excellent lighting (the sun was to our backs) for nearly 30 minutes as it sat on the cable, hopped down to the grass after insects, flew back to the cable or to a low branch, and worked its way along this sunny roadside edge. The weather was clear with temperatures in the upper 30s and an occasional slight breeze about two days after a strong cold front.

We made several phone calls to birders in the general area, telling them about this first state sighting of "Western Flycatcher". More important, we

wanted them to bring cameras, taped songs of *Empidonax* flycatchers, and tape recorders to document the record, as we had neither a camera nor blank tape with us. We hoped that photographs or voice recordings could be useful in determining which of the two species was involved, as the bird did not call during our initial observation.

After it consumed a rather large insect, the bird disappeared back into the brush for 20 or 30 minutes before reappearing in the same location and acting with the same behavior for another 30 minutes or so. By this time, Will Cook and Derb Carter drove up, and Carter took several photographs of the bird. After the authors had left, Ricky Davis also arrived. Cook succeeded in recording a vocalization of the bird as it responded to the Pacific-slope Flycatcher song (from the National Geographic Society [1985] tapes) by vigorously calling. It did not respond to the Cordilleran Flycatcher vocalizations on the tape. Thus, Carter, Cook, and Davis at least tentatively identified the bird as a Pacific-slope Flycatcher. Pippen returned a few days later, heard the bird call, and agreed that the vocalization indicated the bird to be a Pacific-slope Flycatcher.



Figure 1. Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher. Photo by Derb Carter.

The bird was a small flycatcher, noticeably smaller than an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*), which was nearby for comparison, and larger than a nearby Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*). Its head was slightly crested. The bill was fairly broad, blackish above and orangish-flesh below. The mouth interior was orange. It had a pale yellow eye-ring, wider and nearly pointed in back (behind the eye) and very thin above the eye. The eye-ring was widened in front of the eye but was not pointed and not quite as wide as behind the eye. The upperparts were olive, slightly more yellowish/richer around the nape and head. The underparts were pale yellow with a greenish tint and a brighter yellow in the center of the belly. The upper flanks were slightly dingier than the rest of the underparts. The undertail coverts were pale yellowish.

The wings were a dark sooty color. Two buffy/pale yellow wingbars were present, with the upper wingbar being slightly thinner and duller than the lower. The wings were short, with the tip barely reaching the base of the tail and with a short primary projection. The tail was of medium length, appearing long due to the short primary projection of the wing. Observers did not note any tail wagging or flicking of the tail or wings.

The habitat included the margin of a medium-growth mixed pine-hardwood stand with tangles of Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). The bird spent most of its time along the edge of the woods, but it also fed in sunlit openings just inside the woods. Most of its foraging was at or within 3 feet of ground level.

This flycatcher was seen by dozens of birders over the next week. Carter and several other birders photographed it (Figure 1). It was apparently last reported on 21 January. A very strong storm dumped as much as 20 inches of snow on the region immediately thereafter. Despite much searching, birders could not relocate the flycatcher after the snowfall, and the bird likely succumbed to the storm.

Species in the genus *Empidonax* are notoriously difficult to identify, and most species probably should not be identified by sight alone. The Pacific-slope Flycatcher and Cordilleran Flycatcher are particularly difficult to separate from each other visually, but the "Western Flycatcher" complex can normally be distinguished from all other *Empidonax* species by the tear-drop shape of the eye-ring, which is pointed behind the eye. Only the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*E. flaviventris*) shares with the "Western" the fairly rich yellow underparts, but its yellowish eye-ring is usually circular and thus rounded behind the eye. This species also has a rounder head that typically lacks a peak or slight crest that the "Western" shows. Yellow-bellied also has a smaller, shorter bill and has a sharper wing pattern than does "Western" (Joseph Morlan pers. comm.). The Acadian Flycatcher (*E. virescens*) may show a slight teardrop eye-ring effect and a yellowish throat in the fall, but it is not generally as yellow on the underparts as "Western", nor does it have the extremely high-pitched call-notes that the "Western" does.

The Cordilleran and Pacific-slope Flycatchers differ slightly in their calls, and more so in their songs. But even so, these differences are somewhat slight, such that a number of Western ornithologists question the decision of the American Ornithologists' Union to consider these as distinct species. The songs might be distinctive; however, the North Carolina bird gave call notes rather than a song. Louis Bevier (in prep.) indicates that the typical Position Note call:

"differs sharply between species [Pacific-slope and Cordilleran] over most of range. Pacific-slope typically gives a single slurred note that briefly rises then falls (occasionally flat or slightly rising) before ending with strongly emphasized component that rises steeply in pitch: su-weep!, peweat! Or pseeyeap!; this call appears as a sinusoidal or ladle-shaped

note on a spectrogram (see Johnson 1980). Some Pacific-slopes may lack beginning component and emphasize only steeply rising portion, this being typical of birds breeding on the Channel Is. off s. California.

"In contrast, Cordilleran gives a distinctly 2 syllable male Position Note with second note higher, wi-SEET! Or pit-SEET! Rare individuals from interior Northwest may give Position Notes of both species (so-called bilingual individuals). Because male Position Note of some Cordillerans from this region may overlap Pacific-slope, identification by call of migrants and vagrants outside known breeding range is problematic (Pacific-slope call may be given by either species, whereas 2-parted call only given by Cordilleran)."

Bevier (in prep.) also states that:

"Identification of vagrant Western Flycatchers to species problematic in some cases without specimen evidence. Vocalizations may help, but it should be noted that calls (e.g., male Position Note and alarm seet!) may not be diagnostic . . . Pacific-slope Flycatcher accidental in s. Louisiana (specimen . . .) and e. Pennsylvania (Lancaster Co., 2 records, possibly involving the same bird . . .). Pennsylvania records identified by call note, so perhaps only probable to Pacific-slope. Cordilleran Flycatcher accidental in s. Louisiana (specimen . . .) and se. New York (banded . . .). Reports of Western flycatchers not identified to species in the East include: Brigantine NWR, NJ, 16 Nov 1981 . . ., 14-15 Nov 1992 Warren County, IA . . ., Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR, VA, 12-29 Nov 1993 . . ."

The reason that we believe the North Carolina flycatcher is a Pacific-slope is that its call appears to match precisely the typical Position Note call on the National Geographic Society (1985) tape. Moreover, the bird responded vocally to the Pacific-slope calls on this tape but did not respond to the Cordilleran Flycatcher vocalizations on the tape, when played back to the bird by Will Cook and others on 15 January. This is the first record of the Western Flycatcher complex from North Carolina.

In November 2002, the North Carolina Bird Records Committee accepted the Western Flycatcher complex to the Official State List (LeGrand et al. 2003). However, the Committee failed to accept the record to Pacific-slope Flycatcher, citing concerns that it would be nearly impossible to convincingly prove that the bird was a Pacific-slope and not a Cordilleran from the evidence on hand. Thus, on the NC Bird List this record must be listed as Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher (or Western Flycatcher complex), rather than Pacific-slope Flycatcher.

We wish to thank Ned Brinkley, Louis Bevier, Tony Leukering, and Joseph Morlan for reviewing the original description and for providing valuable insights into the problems of identification of the Western Flycatcher complex. We also thank Will Cook, who has made photographs and sonograms of this North Carolina flycatcher currently available online at <http://www.duke.edu/~cwcook/psfl.html>.

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Verification that the Chuck-will's-widow Occurs in Winter in South Carolina

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The Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) has been classified as a summer resident in South Carolina, with an early arrival date of 11 March (Post and Gauthreaux 1989). This note transmits two reports verifying that the species occurs in coastal South Carolina during the winter.

On 26 January 1996, McCallum made a videotape of a Chuck-will's-widow that was in his yard on Sullivan's Island, Charleston County. The bird was perched on the top of a fencepost, in full view. McCallum was able to watch the bird for only a brief period, until it left its perch after Northern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) began mobbing it. The site is a garden area sheltered by a mature stand of live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*). McCallum digitized the videotape, and a print is deposited in the Charleston Museum (ChM 2003.27.016).

On 29 January 2003, Dias found a dead Chuck-will's-widow at the U.S. Coast Guard station site on North Folly Island (Charleston Co.). The bird had just died, and the body was still warm and flexible. It had been sitting in a sparse grassy area several meters from coastal scrub dominated by live oaks, wax-myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) and yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*). The

specimen (study skin with left wing extended; ChM 2003.27.010) was a juvenile male; left testis: 4.5 x 3.5 mm; right: 3.7 x 4.0 mm). It had little subcutaneous fat, and weighed 98.8 g, slightly below the average for males (Straight and Cooper 2000). Other measurements were: wing length (chord from wrist to longest primary): 212 mm; wingspan: 61.5 cm; tail: 137 mm; total length: 30.1 cm.

The Chuck-will's-widow has expanded its breeding range northward since the 1960s, most significantly during the 1970s and 1980s (Straight and Cooper 2000). Thus, it may be expected that more individuals will start wintering north of their historic winter range, which on the Atlantic coast had extended only to southern Florida (Stevenson and Anderson 1994, Straight and Cooper 2000). Indeed, the first winter report for North Carolina was obtained on 31 December 1982, when H. E. LeGrand, Jr. and D. Cristol saw two individuals at Buxton, on Cape Hatteras (LeGrand 1983). Six additional North Carolina reports, all from the coastal counties, have been published since 1982. One of these is of a specimen obtained by Gilbert Grant on 22 February 1992, at North Topsail Beach, Pender County (LeGrand 1992). This is the latest winter report for both states. The specimen is now in the collection of Coastal Carolina Community College, Jacksonville, NC. As yet, Georgia has no material verification of wintering Chuck-will's-widows, although three winter sight reports exist for Charlton and Lowndes Counties, both on the Florida border (Beaton et al. 2003; G. Beaton pers. comm.).

Acknowledgments

We thank Donna and Dennis Forsythe for their assistance in salvaging and identifying the specimen. Giff Beaton kindly provided pertinent information in advance of the publication of the Georgia checklist.

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Red-breasted Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet: The First Nests for South Carolina and Other Chattooga Records

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Introduction

The Chattooga Recreation Area (referred to as CRA for purposes of this article), located adjacent to the Walhalla National Fish Hatchery (780 m) within Sumter National Forest, Oconee Co., South Carolina, has long been noted as a unique natural area within the state. The picnic area in particular, situated along the East Fork of the Chattooga River, contains an old-growth stand of White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) and Canada Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) with state records for both species as well as an impressive understory of Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) and Great Laurel (*Rhododendron maximum*) (Gaddy 2000). Nesting birds at CRA not found outside of the northwestern corner of the state include Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) and Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). Breeding evidence of two other species of northern affinities, Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) and Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) has previously been documented at this location (Post and Gauthreaux 1989, Oberle and Forsythe 1995). However, nest records of these two species have not been documented prior to this study. The summer occurrence of two other northern species on the South Carolina side of the Chattooga River, Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) and Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) has not been previously recorded. Only a few summer records of the Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) have been noted for the state.

Extensive field observations were made by the author in the Chattooga River area of Georgia and South Carolina during the breeding seasons of 2000, 2002 and 2003 in order to verify breeding of bird species of northern affinities. Results include first nest records for Red-breasted Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet for South Carolina as well as first summer records for Brown Creeper and a 24 May 2002 record for Winter Wren.

Two first state nest records

On 28 April 2003, a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches was observed as they foraged and called within the picnic area at CRA. The female was then seen going to a dead snag in a live Sweet Birch (*Betula lenta*). The female went directly to a 2.5 cm round hole (15 m height), and began dabbing at the lip of the hole with her bill, apparently applying conifer resin. The male was calling from a nearby twig while she continued smearing the sap. For the next hour and a half the pair was observed as they came to the hole at

intervals of every 15–30 minutes. The gleaming sap at the hole entrance was very apparent, with a circle of droplets reflecting brightly in the late afternoon sun. This species is known to habitually smear conifer resin around the nest entrance, presumably as a strategy to deter predators (Kilham 1972, Harrison 1975, Harrap and Quinn 1995).

While scanning the treetops in the vicinity of the Red-breasted Nuthatch nest, I located a green, cup-shaped nest in an old growth Canada Hemlock about 18 m height and only about 10 m from the nuthatch nest location. A Golden-crowned Kinglet nest was suspected, as the nest was a compact structure composed primarily of mosses and hemlock-needled twigs. The nest was anchored to twigs below a horizontal branch as described in Harrison (1975). A Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen and heard nearby, but it was not actually observed entering or leaving the nest on this trip.

On 29 April the female Red-breasted Nuthatch was observed tapping vigorously at the hole lip. She did this in intervals of 2–3 minutes, while alternately gleaning insects from the smaller branches of the birch. After some time elapsed the male was seen coming to the hole every 10–20 minutes, apparently to feed the female. However it was not until about 40 minutes later that the female was observed exiting the hole, confirming that she had definitely been sitting inside. The female flew back into the nest hole a few minutes later, and then turned to peer out from the hole entrance for a minute before disappearing inside. After a thunderstorm passed through in the late afternoon, the female was observed going into the nest hole, while the male perched on an adjacent twig.

Upon a return trip to CRA on 2 June 2003, I observed a pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets going back and forth to the nest in the hemlock that had been located on 28 April. They were busily feeding the young with at least one nestling partially visible as it took food from the adults. The kinglets were noted removing fecal sacs about every 15–20 minutes. Each visit to the nest by the kinglets was preceded by high thin calls rapidly ascending in pitch. A bird would then appear at the rim of the nest with the other member of the pair usually following a few minutes after. Otherwise these birds were quite secretive, and were seldom observed near the nest between visits. In one instance the adult was observed feeding the nestling and quickly swooping to catch the fecal sac as it was evacuated. This was accomplished in one smooth and precisely executed maneuver. These details were noted while I observed the nest with a 20 x 60mm spotting scope from a distance of about 24 m.

No activity was noted at the Red-breasted Nuthatch nest until evening, when the male Red-breasted Nuthatch began vocalizing nearby and then perched at the nest hole and began daubing more sap around the hole. A quick check along South Carolina Route 107 north of the hatchery entrance revealed an additional male Red-breasted Nuthatch calling north of the Sloane Picnic Area at a pull-off just before the North Carolina state line. On 4 June a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches was observed feeding two recently fledged young on the South Carolina side of Burrell's Ford. Also on this date

a survey of Red-breasted Nuthatches along Burrell's Ford Road from Burrell's Ford up to the King Creek bridge-culvert (3 km distance) yielded a count of three additional individuals in three widely spaced locations.

Considerable fieldwork was also conducted to determine the breeding status of the Red-breasted Nuthatch along the Chattooga during trips to the area in 2000 and 2002. On 12 June 2000, a male Red-breasted Nuthatch was observed possibly collecting sap from a broken branch base of a White Pine on the South Carolina side of Burrell's Ford. Between 12 and 15 June 2000 a total of 11 Red-breasted Nuthatches were counted on the South Carolina side of the Chattooga from Burrell's Ford to Earl's Ford. In 2002 the first documented Georgia nesting of this species was confirmed at the Nicholson Tract of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Area. Also in 2002, breeding was suspected in the Russell Farmstead area on the South Carolina side of the river. Red-breasted Nuthatches were also found a considerable distance from the Chattooga with one at Mountain Rest 22 May 2002 and a pair at Oconee State Park 1 May 2002 (Renfrow 2002).

Suspected breeders

On 28 April 2003 two Brown Creepers and two Blackburnian Warblers were found at CRA, while one Winter Wren was observed near the Burrell's Ford Campground parking area and another Brown Creeper was observed near King Creek Falls. On 2 June 2003 at least four Brown Creepers in total were noted in the CRA area. During the midday period, considerable Brown Creeper activity was noted with two singing males vigorously chasing each other, rapidly darting from tree to tree. However, a concerted search of trees with loose bark failed to disclose any evidence of a creeper nest such as nesting material sticking out from under the bark, as might be expected where a nest is present (Harrison 1975, Gorney 2000). On 4 June 2003, one Blackburnian Warbler was observed singing repeatedly from a large White Pine at Burrell's Ford on the South Carolina side. Also at Burrell's Ford on this date, two Brown Creepers were observed singing repeatedly. These species were also noted during previous trips to the area in 2000 and 2002. On 13 June 2000 two Brown Creepers were heard singing near Burrell's Ford on the South Carolina side, and two Blackburnian Warblers were seen and heard along the entrance road to the fish hatchery on 1 May 2002. On 20 May 2002, two singing Brown Creepers were seen along the entrance road to the fish hatchery. One creeper seemed to disappear beneath some loose bark on a dead deciduous tree, but no definitive nest was located. A Winter Wren was heard singing near a pile of fallen trees in a ravine at the Russell Farmstead on 24 May 2002, with a Brown Creeper heard nearby (Renfrow 2002).

Discussion

Breeding of the Red-breasted Nuthatch has previously been suspected in the Chattooga River area of Oconee County, with one CRA observation

dating back to 10 June 1910 (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949). On 26 May 1986, two Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen inspecting cavities at CRA (Post and Gauthreaux 1989). Field observations indicate that the breeding population of the Red-breasted Nuthatch is well distributed along the South Carolina side of the Chattooga and East Fork of the Chattooga Rivers from the North Carolina line south to Earl's Ford. Additionally, the Red-breasted Nuthatch has been listed as rare in summer in areas of Virginia (*Pinus virginiana*) and Pitch (*P. rigida*) Pine in Greenville County by Carter (1993).

This constitutes the first Golden-crowned Kinglet nest record for South Carolina although breeding was confirmed at CRA on 18 June 1995 with an observation of adults feeding fledglings (Oberle and Forsythe 1995). The Golden-crowned Kinglet has also been found in summer in Greenville County (Carter 1993).

The populations of both Red-breasted Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet in northeastern Georgia and northwestern South Carolina form an extension of the breeding range from the higher elevation spruce-fir forests (above 1680 m) to the White Pine-hemlock forests of the southern Blue Ridge. Both species are documented breeders in White Pine-hemlock and old-growth hemlock forests in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee (Oberle and Haney 1997, Nicholson 1997). Both species also nest in the transitional zone of spruce-hemlock forest, ranging between 1370 and 1680 m in the Blue Ridge (Catlin 1984, Simpson 1992, Renfrow unpubl. notes). A Red-breasted Nuthatch nest located in North Carolina at the Mt. Pisgah picnic area (1500 m) on 26 June 2003 was similarly situated to the CRA nest at 8 m height in a dead section of a live Sweet Birch. This was within a dense area of spruce-hemlock forest with an understory of Mountain Laurel, Catawba Rhododendron (*Rhododendron catawbiense*) and Great Laurel. Breeding Golden-crowned Kinglets were also present at this location (Renfrow unpubl. notes).

There have been no previous documented records of Brown Creeper or Winter Wren for the summer period in South Carolina although they have both been known to occur rarely in summer in Rabun County, Georgia (Oberle and Haney 1997, Renfrow 2002). Post and Gauthreaux (1989) list late spring records of 2 May 1965 for the Brown Creeper and 4 May 1976 for the Winter Wren. Summer Blackburnian Warbler records within the state include three collected at Pickens County between 18 and 24 June 1889 and one collected at CRA on 24 June 1940 (Wayne 1910, Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949). There is also a casual observation of possible breeding of the Blackburnian Warbler at Greenville County listed in the South Carolina Breeding Bird Atlas (www.dnr.state.sc.us/wild/bbatlas/bba.html). Although no definitive breeding evidence of the Brown Creeper was noted during the course of these observations, the numerous sightings well into the summer period indicate probable breeding status in South Carolina. The sporadic presence of Winter Wren and Blackburnian Warbler certainly indicates that additional fieldwork is needed to determine whether breeding might occur within the state.

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Male-Female Interactions by Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on Wintering Grounds

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On 23 March 2002, in my wooded yard near Zebulon, Wake County, NC, I watched two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*), a male and a female, engage in behavior I had never before witnessed. The male was perched on the trunk of a small hickory (*Carya sp.*) having bark riddled with sapsucker wells. The female flew to the tree and perched a short distance above the male. Both birds faced the top of the tree. He followed her to the top, she flew to the base of the tree, and he followed her to the top again. The two repeated the ascents several more times, with much head-bobbing by the male and loud vocalization throughout, mostly by the male. Then the two flew away together, for a distance of more than 100 m, judging by the persistent calling. Both returned to the tree, still calling, and the male followed the female up the trunk once again; but this time he attempted to mount her. Both birds took to the air and, facing each other, hovered briefly. Suddenly the calling ceased. The female flew away, and the male returned to "his" tree.

The activity drew an audience of Carolina Chickadees (*Poecile carolinensis*) and Tufted Titmice (*Baeolophus bicolor*), which, like the human observer, were completely ignored by the sapsuckers.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker breeds mostly in parts of Canada, the north-central United States, and New England, southward in the Appalachian Mountains to western North Carolina (see range map in Sibley 2000), where it is "a rare to uncommon, local, and erratic summer resident mainly above 3,500 feet in disturbed or open oak and northern hardwood forests from late April through September" (Simpson 1992). The species winters mostly from Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, the Ohio Valley, and New Jersey southward on the Atlantic Coast to Florida and westward on the Gulf Coast to Texas and throughout Middle America (except much of northwestern Mexico and portions of Panama) and eastward to the Bahamas and the Antilles (American Ornithologists' Union 1983).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers generally arrive in central North Carolina during the first two weeks of October, though an adult male was seen in Zebulon on the early date of 22 September 1965 (Potter, unpublished notes). They generally depart during late April, the latest known observation date being 29 April at Raleigh (Pearson et al. 1942).

All available accounts of sapsucker behavior on the wintering grounds in the Southeast generally agree on their solitary habits. Sprunt and Chamberlain (1970) state that each bird "appears to have an extensive feeding territory, and it is unusual to encounter more than a single specimen in a large tract of woodland."

Other than feeding habits, little is known about Yellow-bellied Sapsucker behavior on the wintering grounds. However, one sapsucker banded at Chapel Hill, NC, was recaptured there in a subsequent season (Kennard 1975). I operated a banding station in my yard from May 1967 through November 1972. During that period I banded six Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, all hatching year (HY) birds except one adult male netted in October 1971 and found dead in January 1972. Prior to the events of 23 March 2002, I recorded two sapsuckers present in my yard simultaneously only three times, all recent arrivals in October. Two males, one adult and one HY bird, were present on 12 October 1966. Two HY birds were netted simultaneously on 12 October 1969. A male was banded and the other escaped. The latter apparently was the HY female banded the following day. On 4 October 1970 two sapsuckers were present, but their age and sex were not recorded. There certainly is no indication that adults and offspring share a winter feeding territory, and none that siblings or mated pairs do so. However, there is a possibility that individuals with neighboring winter feeding territories might encounter one another occasionally and engage in some precursory courtship activity.

Accounts of courtship behavior in the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Bent 1939, Kilham 1962) agree that the males are first to arrive on the breeding grounds and the females arrive several days later. Courtship and copulation take place in the vicinity of the chosen nest tree. A new cavity is generally excavated by the pair, but reuse of a cavity sometimes occurs. Because some males exhibit site fidelity (Kilham 1962), it is possible that the females also return to the site of a previous nesting.

Winsor Marrett Tyler wrote (*in* Bent 1939) that in spring "the sapsucker is light-hearted and jaunty compared to the sober, quiet bird that visited us the autumn before. The breeding season is near at hand, and if two birds meet they often engage in a sort of game, a precursory courtship, wherein one bird flies at the other in a playful attack; the other eludes the rush of the oncoming bird by a sudden, last-minute retreat winding around the branch on which it rests, or sliding off into the air. In these pursuits in and out among the branches we are impressed by the agility and grace of the birds and by the easy way they direct their course through the air. They seem to swing from branch to branch with little effort, slowly opening and closing their wings to guide them on their way. As we watch them we are reminded of trapeze artists in the circus."

The behavior I witnessed can hardly be deemed graceful, though the attempted copulation does suggest precursory courtship. However, the activity as a whole seemed more like a lovers' quarrel than pair bonding. In retrospect, the male's attempt to mount the female may have been an aggressive movement in defense of his feeding site. If so, he was successful.

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BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Spring 2003)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter = December 1–February 28, due March 20

Spring = March 1–May 31, due June 20

Summer = June 1–July 31, due August 20

Fall = August 1–November 30, due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

RED-THROATED LOON: There were several Red-throateds found inland this spring. One seen at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC March 23 was most likely the same bird found there during the winter (Ricky Davis). One was a very good find in upstate South Carolina at L. Keowee, Pickens County, April 26 (Steve Patterson et al.). And two (one almost in alternate plumage!) were seen in the mountains of western North Carolina in late April (Ricky Davis).

found on a small lake in s. Durham County, NC May 13 (Jim Sutton) provided a very rare inland report of more than one individual.

PACIFIC LOON: The birds present at Figure Eight Is., NC, since the late fall, were last seen March 30, as noted by Derb Carter and Merrill Lynch.

COMMON LOON: Common Loons were reported widely inland this spring. The best count was the 144 at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC April 11 (Wayne Forsythe), most likely providing a record tally for the mountains.

HORNED GREBE: One, in alternate plumage, was quite late at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC May 19, as noted by Steve Calver.

RED-NECKED GREBE: This species, which started arriving in the Carolinas during a late-winter movement, continued on into spring. Most birds were along the coast, but inland reports included two on L. Hickory, NC March 7 (Dwayne Martin), one at Kerr Lake, Vance County, NC March 9 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall), one at Falls Lake, NC March 9 (Ricky Davis), and one at Jordan Lake, NC March 9-10 (Derb Carter, Davis; sev. obs.). Coastal sightings involved one at Oregon Inlet, NC March 1-24 (Rick Knight, Bob Perkins, Brad & Pat Carlson, Jeff Lewis, sev. obs.), one at C. Hatteras, NC March 15 (m. obs.), one on the pond at the north end of Ocracoke Is., NC March 20-21 (John Fussell), and one at Fort Macon, NC March 9 (Rich & Susan Boyd). In South Carolina, one was a good find at Port Royal, Beaufort County, March 9 (Robin Carter & Caroline Eastman).

EARED GREBE: This spring's lingering Eareds involved one at Wrightsville Beach, NC March 23 (Sam Cooper), one at Figure Eight Is., NC March 30 (Derb Carter), one at the Goldsboro, NC Wastewater Treatment Plant April 5 (Eric Dean, Gene Howe), and two at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC April 18 (Steve Calver).

HERALD PETREL: Once again this species was found off North Carolina during the spring, with two off Manteo May 23 (Brian Patteson et al.), one off Manteo May 24 (Mike Tove et al.), and two off Manteo May 31 (Patteson et al.).

FEA'S PETREL: Fea's Petrels had one of their best seasons off North Carolina. Reports, all out of Manteo, included one May 24 and 26 (Mike Tove et al.), two May 27 (Patteson et al.), and one May 30 (Patteson et al.).

BERMUDA PETREL: This spring's sighting of this now-annual species was of a juvenile off Manteo, NC May 24 (Mike Tove et al.).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: Two off Murrell's Inlet, SC April 21 were good finds for that state (Jack Peachey).

MANX SHEARWATER: Manx Shearwaters are regular transients off the North Carolina coast in late spring. This year's sightings included two off Hatteras May 24 and 25 (Patteson et al.).

STORM-PETRELS: Storm-petrel numbers were about average this spring with the peak counts off Manteo, NC being 19 Leach's May 23 and 19 Band-rumpeds May 27 (Patteson et al.).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: Two were found this spring: one was very rare, early and unexpected in the Bight at C. Lookout, NC March 23

(Rich & Susan Boyd et al.) and one was off Hatteras, NC May 24 (Patteson et al.).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD: This spring proved to be a banner year for this rare (about a dozen previous reports) species. During the series of pelagic trips off the North Carolina Outer Banks, one was found off Manteo May 24 (Mike Tove et al.), one was off Hatteras May 25 (Patteson et al.), and two were off Manteo May 27 (Patteson et al.).

BROWN BOOBY: An immature, found on the beach at Ocracoke Is., NC May 11 and brought to a local wildlife shelter (Elizabeth Hanrahan), continued a recent trend of sick birds being found in that state. Much more amazing, though, was the sighting of a group of four (one adult, three immatures) flying together over the breakers at Pea Is. NWR, NC May 15 (Helmut & Nancy Mueller). This latter report easily provided a new record count for this species in the Carolinas.

NORTHERN GANNET: Gannets normally continue to migrate northward off our coasts during late May and early summer. Of note this spring was the heavy movement off North Carolina May 23 when 595 were counted off Manteo (Patteson et al.) and 800+ were counted from the beach between Avon and Oregon Inlet (Paul Sykes).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Quite rare inland were three over L. Murray, SC April 12 (Mike Turner), ten over L. Hickory, NC May 14 (Dwayne Martin et al.), and one at L. Junaluska, NC May 17–24 (Paul Supre, Bob Olthoff, sev. obs.). Also of note were 23 at the Santee Coastal Res., Charleston County, SC April 12 (Ritch Lilly, Chris Hill et al.).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: A very early adult female was seen heading north at Myrtle Beach, SC March 15 (Ritch Lilly). There are only a handful of March reports for this species in the Carolinas.

AMERICAN BITTERN: Good finds inland this spring included two in Henderson County, NC April 6 (Marilyn Westphal, Bob Olthoff), one in Happy Valley, NC April 22 (Dwayne Martin), one near Clemson, SC April 26 (Giff Beaton et al.), and one at Frog Pond, west of Wagram, Scotland County, NC April 26–27 (Jeff Beane et al.). The latter bird, reported as a “young bird,” was interesting since breeding evidence in the Carolinas is rarely noted.

SNOWY EGRET: Good inland reports this spring involved one at the New Hope Impoundment, Chapel Hill, NC April 19 (Will Cook, Randy Emmitt) and one at the Highway 50 Ramp, Falls Lake, NC May 18 (Brian Bockhahn).

CATTLE EGRET: This species was found inland sparingly with only a couple of sightings. One was at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC April 14 (Brian Bockhahn) and one was along Banner Road, Henderson County, NC May 10 (Charlotte Goedsche et al.).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: There were several reports from the Raleigh-Durham, NC area this spring. Three were found on the Butner Game Lands, Durham County, April 27 (Norm Budnitz et al.), two were at

Falls Lake May 7 (Brian Bockhahn), and one was at Jordan Lake May 17 (Jeff Pippen).

GLOSSY IBIS: One of the better counts for the Carolinas was the 250+ at the Santee Coastal Res., SC April 12, as noted by Ritch Lilly. Also of interest were the 12 in a flooded field along US 64 in Tyrrell County, NC March 23 (Steve Shultz et al.).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: One was a very good find at Huntington Beach State Park, SC April 22–23 (Steve Roff, Ritch Lilly). Spring sightings are rarer than those in summer.

WOOD STORK: Rare inland sightings for North Carolina included one west of Smithfield May 9 (Clyde Sorenson, Brian Pendergraft) and one in southern Columbus County near the Waccamaw River May 10 (Harry LeGrand). Also the Sunset Beach, NC area, which hosts this species every summer and fall, had some during the spring. One was seen there May 31 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

BLACK VULTURE: Two near Robbinsville, NC May 1 (Simon Thompson) provided a locally rare report for that western mountain area.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: One was photographed at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 10–11 by Steve Calver. This species was reported from several eastern states this year; and the South Carolina bird most likely was from the Florida population, which currently seems to be expanding.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: Eight were good finds at Huntington Beach State Park, SC April 30–May 3 (Phil & Sharon Turner, Ritch Lilly, et al.), providing a rare spring sighting.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: Two were excellent finds at the Topsail Island WTP, Onslow County, NC March 1 (Clancy Ballenger, David Allen).

EURASIAN WIGEON: A male was found in a flooded field along US 64 in Tyrrell County, NC March 1–2 (Kent Fiala et al., Jeff Lewis), providing a rare spring report.

“COMMON” GREEN-WINGED TEAL: A male was observed at the salt pond at Cape Hatteras, NC March 15 (Brad Carlson et al.). This was the first report in several years of this Eurasian form of the Green-winged Teal.

RING-NECKED DUCK: Late lingering Ring-necks included one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 25 (Steve Calver) and 20 at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC May 25 (Ricky Davis).

GREATER SCAUP: One was very late at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 25, as noted by Steve Calver. The best count received this spring was of 60 at L. Gaston, NC March 23 (Ricky Davis).

LESSER SCAUP: An excellent inland total for the spring was the 1400 on L. Murray, SC March 8, as noted by Mike Turner.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Somewhat late was one flying by Pine Knoll Shores, NC April 15 (John Fussell et al.).

LONG-TAILED DUCK: This species is always reported infrequently during the spring. Thus, of note this year were one still at L. Robinwood,

Gaston County, NC March 3 (Steve Tracy), two at Huntington Beach State Park, SC March 14 (Mike Turner et al.), one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC April 2 (Steve Calver), and one at Murrell's Inlet, SC April 28 (Ritch Lilly). The latter bird, probably one of the birds in that area earlier in the spring, was quite late for our area.

BUFFLEHEAD: Two at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC May 25 were rather late for the Carolinas (Ricky Davis).

COMMON MERGANSER: Rare spring sightings included three at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC March 23 (Ricky Davis) and one at Eastwood Lake, Chapel Hill, NC May 4 (*fide* Will Cook).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: There were several good counts of this merganser during its migration in the Carolinas. The best totals were the 25 at Beaver Lake, Asheville, NC March 20 (Tim Lewis) and 78 at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC March 23 (Ricky Davis).

OSPREY: One in Asheville, NC May 25 was considered to be a late migrant since there are no nearby nesting sites (Simon Thompson).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Swallow-tailed Kites were reported more than usual in North Carolina this spring. Some early reports included one over North Pond, Pea Is. NWR March 22 (Keith Camburn, Heathy Walker) and at Wilmington March 23 (Sam Cooper). Other sightings involved one over the White Oak River, near Swansboro April 1 (Nate Bacheler), one at Roanoke Island April 3 (Jeff Lewis), and one in east-central Brunswick County May 13 (Lynn & Richard Petch, *fide* Mary McDavit). Quite rare farther inland were two at Howell Woods, Johnston County May 3 (Josh Rose, Judy Murray et al.). And finally, during May and into the summer, up to four were present along the Cape Fear River in the area where NC 11 crosses it near the Bladen/Columbus County line (*fide* Sam Cooper). One wonders if the possibility of breeding might exist in that area?

NORTHERN HARRIER: One near Tillery, Halifax County, NC May 12 was considered to be somewhat late (Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch).

SWAINSON'S HAWK: An immature Swainson's, at Alligator River NWR, NC March 23–28 (Mike Tove; m. obs.), was an exciting find, especially since it stayed around long enough for quite a few people to see.

GOLDEN EAGLE: Always noteworthy, Golden Eagle reports included a second-year bird at Congaree Bluffs, SC March 9 (Mike Turner) and a group of three (two adults and one immature) over Bakers Mt. Park, Catawba County, NC May 10 (Dwayne Martin et al.). The latter is quite interesting since it involved an apparent family group.

MERLIN: Some good inland Merlin sightings involved singles at Darlington, Halifax County, NC April 21 (Frank Enders) and at Green Level, Chatham County, NC April 24 (Merrill Lynch).

PEREGRINE FALCON: North Carolina had several inland reports away from the usual areas this spring. Singles were seen at Bakers Mt. Park, Catawba County March 10 (John Sutton, Dwayne Martin), at Burlington April 26 (Will Cook), near Greenville May 10 (Cook), and at Winston-Salem May 3 (Ann Newsome et al., *fide* Ramona Snavely).

CHUKAR: Most unexpected, and totally out of place, was the Chukar photographed at Doughton Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway, NC April 30–May 1 (Gary Balkwill, Jim Culbertson). Obviously an escape from some hunting club or game breeder, it is practically never seen in the Carolinas in the wild.

BLACK RAIL: One was flushed in the Happy Valley, NC area April 22 (Dwayne Martin), providing one of the very few inland sightings of this species in the Carolinas for many years now.

VIRGINIA RAIL: Good finds for the mountains were one at the Tulula Wetlands, Robbinsville, NC March 2 (Owen & Pat McConnell), two in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC April 3 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal), and one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC April 3 (Ron Selvey).

COMMON MOORHEN: One was totally out of habitat when found in the ocean out past the breakers at Sullivan's Is., SC April 27 (Nathan Dias et al.).

AMERICAN COOT: One was considered locally rare at L. Oolenoy, Table Rock St. Pk., SC March 20, as noted by Scott Stegenga.

LIMPKIN: One was found dead (specimen to the Charleston Museum) along US 17 at Green Pond, Colleton County, SC May 11 (David Chamberlain). This was the first specimen for that state since the one from 1904!

SANDHILL CRANE: Several were found in the mountains of North Carolina this spring. Four were at Hooper Lane, Henderson County March 14 (Wayne Forsythe) and two were there April 13 (Forsythe, Ron Selvey). Elsewhere, one was between Brevard and Pisgah Forest, in Transylvania County May 10, as noted by Betty McIlwain and Ludwig Kempe.

WHOOPING CRANE: Of extreme interest was the report of a Whooping Crane seen briefly in Wilkes County, NC in mid-April (*fide* Harry LeGrand). Obviously one of the experimental Wisconsin to Florida birds, its radio signal was lost in the county, therefore its fate is unknown.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: The most interesting inland reports included 30+ at the Bucksport, SC Sod Farm March 15 (Gary Phillips), one at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC April 27 (Clyde Sorenson), and excellent totals for the mountains at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC May 5–22 with a peak of 11 on May 7 (Danny Swicegood, Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: This spring's sightings involved one at Hooper Lane, NC March 22–23 (Marilyn Westphal), one at Townville, Anderson County, SC March 26 (Jim Edwards), four at Hooper Lane April 6 (Ron Selvey), and one at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC May 3 (Jeff Pippen et al.). The latter bird was especially a good find since the species is much rarer on the coast during spring migration.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: The best totals reported from inland areas were the 15 at the Bucksport, SC Sod Farm March 15 (Gary Phillips) and the six found at Hooper Lane, NC May 11 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

AMERICAN AVOCET: Locally unusual sightings involved one seen flying with oystercatchers over the ocean at Ft. Macon, NC March 12 (Josh Rose) and again March 23 (Clyde Sorenson), and two at Cedar Is. NWR, NC May 9 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

WILLET: Only one inland report was received this spring, that being of a single Willet at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC May 25, as noted by Ricky Davis.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: Very few Uplands were found in the Carolinas this spring. The only ones reported involved five at the Cherry Hospital fields, Wayne County, NC April 19 (Eric Dean, Gene Howe) and one at Hooper Lane, NC May 8 (Marilyn Westphal, Danny Swicegood). The latter bird was noteworthy in that it was somewhat late; this species normally migrates through the Carolinas in late March through April.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: One at Pawleys Island, SC May 1 (Jack Peachey) provided the only report received this spring.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: Very rare spring reports included one at Pea Is., NWR, NC May 15 (Helmut & Nancy Mueller) and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 19–20 (Paul Sykes, Steve Calver).

RUDDY TURNSTONE: The mountains of North Carolina had some interesting turnstone sightings this spring. At L. Osceola, Hendersonville, six were observed May 20–27 (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe, sev. obs.). Of particular interest is that after further checking, it was learned that up to 20 (a record count for the mountains) were present there the week before (*fide* Forsythe)! Also a flock of nine was at Hooper Lane, NC May 22 (Danny Swicegood). It is not known if these were more turnstones or if they were part of the original L. Osceola flock.

SANDERLING: One at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC May 16 (Brian Bockhahn) provided the only inland report this spring.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: One was a good find for the mountains in spring in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC May 20 (Wayne Forsythe)

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: The only inland White-rumpeds found this spring involved one at Clemson, SC April 26–27 (Ricky Davis et al.) and five at Hooper Lane, NC May 8 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER: Several early Pectoral reports included one at the Columbia, SC WTP March 5 (Mike Turner), 15 near Hooper Lane, NC March 5 (Wayne Forsythe, Stu Gibeau), and 12 at the Bucksport, SC Sod Farm March 8 (Gary Phillips). The best count was the 100 near Hooper Lane March 22 (Marilyn Westphal).

DUNLIN: Noteworthy inland Dunlin sightings involved one at Pisgah Forest, Transylvania County, NC May 11 (Betty McIlwain), up to six at Hooper Lane, NC April 7–8 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), and one there May 8–10 (Marilyn Westphal, Forsythe).

STILT SANDPIPER: Very noteworthy inland in spring was one in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC May 20 (Wayne Forsythe).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: One at Hooper Lane, NC May 8 was the only inland dowitcher reported this spring (Marilyn Westphal, Danny Swicegood).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: One found near Havelock, NC May 13 (John Fussell) was late for that locality and suggested the possibility of nesting nearby.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Noteworthy spring reports included one at Pea Is. NWR, NC May 22 (Jeff Lewis) and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC April 2 and 18, May 10 (Steve Calver).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: Always a good find onshore, Red-necked Phalaropes were at Pea Is. NWR, NC May 19 (Ned Brinkley); and several were at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 18–25 (Steve Calver, Paul Sykes) with a peak of seven there May 19 (Sykes).

RED PHALAROPE: In North Carolina, two provided a very rare inland report with one at Roanoke Rapids Lake and another at the L. Gaston Dam area April 19, as noted by Ricky Davis. Most likely these birds were grounded by the very cool, wet weather of the time. Also very rare for the Carolinas was the alternate-plumaged Red Phalarope found at Pea Is. NWR May 19 (Ned Brinkley, Brian Patteson). This plumage is almost never seen in our area, especially onshore.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: Only one was found offshore this spring, that being off Manteo, NC May 23 (Brian Patteson et al.).

POMARINE JAEGER: The peak offshore count this spring was the 30+ off Hatteras, NC April 18 (Brian Patteson). The nine off Murrell's Inlet, SC April 21 (Jack Peachey) was also an excellent total for that state. Also of note was one seen from shore at Pine Knoll Shores, NC April 15 (John Fussell et al.).

PARASITIC JAEGER: Noteworthy onshore sightings included one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC March 14 (Mike Turner et al.) and one at C. Hatteras, NC May 26 (Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: One flew over the point at C. Hatteras, NC May 26 (Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter) for a rare onshore sighting. More expected but still noteworthy were singles off Hatteras May 25 and Manteo May 30 (Brian Patteson et al.).

LAUGHING GULL: This spring's inland reports involved three at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC April 19 (Joe & Karen Bearden), one at L. Gaston, NC April 19 (Ricky Davis), and one at L. Hickory, NC May 18 (Dwayne Martin).

LITTLE GULL: The first half of March is normally a good time to search for this hoped-for gull. This season several were in the Atlantic Beach, NC area with a good count of four there March 13 (John Fussell, Stuart Pimm) and one there March 15 (Fussell, Jim & Laura O'Donnell).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: One was locally unusual and somewhat late at C. Lookout, NC April 13 (John Fussell et al.) and April 21 (Wade Fuller, Rich & Susan Boyd).

CASPIAN TERN: Caspian Terns are regular inland spring migrants in the Carolinas. Sightings included two at Jordan Lake, NC May 4 (Ginger Travis), three at Falls Lake, NC May 16 (Brian Bockhahn), six at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC April 19 (Joe & Karen Bearden), three at L. Crabtree April 27 (Clyde Sorenson), and two at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC May 25 (Ricky Davis) being somewhat late. The peak count reported was the 58 spread between Roanoke Rapids Lake and L. Gaston, NC April 19 (Davis).

ROSEATE TERN: Sightings of this rare tern in the Carolinas are always worth mentioning. This spring was one of the better ones in recent memory, with several being found offshore. One was off Hatteras, NC May 24 and 25 (Brian Patteson et al.) and two were off Manteo, NC May 25 (Mike Tove et al.).

COMMON TERN: Noteworthy inland reports included one at Jordan Lake, NC April 19 (Will Cook, Randy Emmitt), three at Roanoke Rapids Lake, NC April 19 (Ricky Davis), one at Jordan L. May 4 (Doug Shadwick), and one at Roanoke Rapids L. May 25 (Davis).

ARCTIC TERN: After several years of just a few being reported, Arctic Terns were present in good numbers offshore. The peak one-day count was the 12 off Hatteras, NC May 24 (Brian Patteson et al.). Other counts involved seven off Hatteras May 25 (Patteson et al.), two off Manteo, NC May 26 and 27 (Mike Tove et al.), and two off Manteo May 30 (Patteson et al.).

FORSTER'S TERN: This species is a regular migrant inland in the Carolinas. Good reports from the mountains included seven at L. Julian, NC April 18 (Simon Thompson) and five there May 11 (Ron Selvey, Wayne Forsythe). Elsewhere, the best total was the 51 between Roanoke Rapids Lake and L. Gaston, NC April 19, as noted by Ricky Davis.

LEAST TERN: One was rather early at Figure Eight Is., NC March 15 (Jeff Lewis). Rooftop nesting by this species has been observed at several sites before. This spring a rather large colony was found on the roof of a grocery store at Emerald Isle, NC. By May 11 there were at least 320 birds (160 nests?), which remained on into summer (Alan Johnston, Shantanu Phukan).

BRIDLED TERN: Numbers were up this spring offshore with the peak count being 83 off Manteo, NC May 24 (Mike Tove et al.).

SOOTY TERN: This species was also present in good numbers with the best counts being 56 off Hatteras, NC May 24 (Brian Patteson et al.), 34 off Hatteras May 25 (Patteson et al.), and 18 off Manteo, NC May 26 (Mike Tove et al.).

DOVEKIE: The winter influx of alcids continued into the spring. The very rare Dovekie was reported multiple times with sightings involving a fly-by at Ft. Macon, NC March 9 (John Fussell, Bob Holmes, Jack Fennell), one in the surf at Ft. Macon March 13 (Kyle Van Houton, Josh Rose, sev. obs.), one in the surf north of the point at C. Hatteras, NC March 15 (Harry LeGrand, Derb Carter, Ricky Davis, Wayne Irvin, Brad Carlson), and fly-bys at

Wrightsville Beach, NC March 29 (Sam Cooper) and April 3 (Karen & Joe Bearden).

THICK-BILLED MURRE: The rare Thick-billed Murre was also present in North Carolina waters with one residing close to shore in the Ft. Macon area March 11–16 (Stuart Pimm et al., m. obs.) and one at Wrightsville Beach March 29 (Sam Cooper) and April 5 (Mike & Lois Schultz).

RAZORBILL: During an alcid invasion year, Razorbills are expected to be the predominant species found. This season was no different with too many reports to mention them all. The peak totals reported were the 100+ in the Pea Is. NWR, NC area March 26 (Jeff Lewis), the 70 in the Atlantic Beach–Ft. Macon, NC area March 9 (John Fussell et al.), the 36 at Figure Eight Is., NC March 29–30 (Derb Carter, Merrill Lynch), the 25 at C. Lookout, NC March 5 (*fide* Fussell), the 11 at Wrightsville Beach, NC March 29 (Sam Cooper), and 12 at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC April 12 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff). The latest ones reported included three at Wrightsville Beach, NC April 14 (Dan Kaplan), and one at Atlantic Beach, NC April 21 (*fide* Fussell) which was in a weakened condition and was taken to a local wildlife shelter.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: The number of reports of this elusive species was about average. Up to three were found at the Alleghany Access, New River St. Pk., NC May 3 (Harrol Blevins et al.), one was found along the Verona Loop, Onslow County, NC May 10 (Andy Webb), one was found dead on the road at Pea Is. NWR, NC May 10 (Jeff Beane et al.), two were in the Croatan Nat. Forest in mid-May (John Fussell), and one was along the Blue Ridge Parkway, Transylvania County, NC May 28 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

SHORT-EARED OWL: One was locally unusual in Jacksonville, NC April 18 (Buddy Garrett), providing a good spring report.

CHIMNEY SWIFT: An estimate of 4,000 going to a chimney at the Vienna School, Winston-Salem, NC May 14 (Linda Davis, *fide* Ramona Snavely) was quite amazing since large roosts of this species are usually seen more in the fall than in spring.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: Three reports of this rare western hummingbird were received this spring. The adult male present at a Sunset Beach, NC feeder during the late winter was last seen March 4 (Mary McDavit). An immature male was photographed at a feeder in Morehead City, NC during a two-week stay in March (Bill Hettler, *fide* John Fussell). An adult male was seen at a feeder in Manteo, NC March 27–28 (Jeff Lewis).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: One was locally unusual as a spring migrant at Rodanthe, NC May 7, as noted by Sam Cooper.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: One was a good find in northwestern Buncombe County, NC at an elevation of 4,000 ft May 23 (Len Pardue). This sighting indicates probable breeding in the area; all nesting locations of this localized breeder are worth noting.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: Rare spring migrants in the eastern section included one at Francis Beidler Forest, Dorchester County, SC April 26

(Ritch Lilly) and one at Caw Caw Park, Ravenel, SC April 26 (Perry Nugent et al.).

LEAST FLYCATCHER: One was a good find at Chapel Hill, NC May 12 (Will Cook) since this flycatcher is rarely found in the east during spring.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER: A female was photographed at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC April 2 (Steve Calver), providing one of the very few spring records for the Carolinas.

GRAY KINGBIRD: There were several sightings of this kingbird this spring. One was at Pawleys Island, SC April 30–May 6 (Ritch Lilly, Mary McDavit, sev. obs.), one was a fly-by at C. Lookout, NC May 26 (John Fussell et al.), and one was at Wrightsville Beach, NC May 31 (Patrick Coin).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: One bird returned to the Monroe, NC site, where breeding occurred for several years, May 7 (Anne Olsen). The other bird of the pair was not observed.

WARBLING VIREO: This species was reported widely in the Carolinas again this spring. One of the Anilorac Farm, Orange County, NC breeding birds had returned by April 24 (Shelley Theye), one was at Cowans Ford Wildlife Refuge, L. Norman, NC April 24 (Tomm Lorenzin), one was at Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC April 27 (Royce Hough), and one was at Stecoah Gap, Graham County, NC April 27 (Jon Smith). Others included one at Table Rock St. Pk., SC May 2 (Scott Stegenga), one along Mid Pines Road, Raleigh, NC May 10 (John Connors), one at Fletcher Park, Henderson County, NC May 14 (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe), and one back at the traditional spring site at Ventosa Plantation, Scotland Neck, NC May 26 (Ricky Davis).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: Six was a good number for early in the season at the Columbia, SC WTP March 7 (Mike Turner).

BARN SWALLOW: Also an excellent early number was the 20 Barns at the Columbia, SC WTP March 7 (Mike Turner). In North Carolina, one at Jordan Lake March 9 (Ricky Davis) was somewhat early.

HERMIT THRUSH: One at the Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Is., NC May 6 (Jeff Lewis) was rather late, especially for that coastal locality.

WOOD THRUSH: One heard singing in Orange County, NC March 9 (Mike Swaim) was amazingly early, probably providing a record early-arrival date for the Carolinas. Was this a bird that never left the Southeast for the winter?

CEDAR WAXWING: Good numbers of this species that were present along North Carolina's Outer Banks during the winter were still present as late as March 9 (Bob Perkins) when 2,400 were counted along Highway 12 near Salvo.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: A male in I'on Swamp, SC April 11 (Bob & Barbara Maxwell) was quite early and provided a possible record early spring date for the species in that state.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: A male singing at Beacon Heights on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Avery County, NC May 25–28 (Chris Wilson) was probably a late migrant, with no apparent breeding behavior being noted.

CAPE MAY WARBLER: One at a feeder in Conway, SC March 1 was likely to have been a rare wintering bird (Gary Phillips).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: One was a good find in the Bodie Island Lighthouse, NC woods May 14 (Jeff Lewis), providing a rare coastal sighting. Even more unusual was the Blackburnian that landed on a boat off of Hatteras, NC May 25 (Brian Patteson et al.). This individual was obviously exhausted as it was brought back to land and then released!

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER: One was a surprise, found singing near Zebulon, NC May 18 (Eloise Potter). The bird did not show itself to the observer, but was heard clearly at close range. Of interest is the fact that one was seen and heard in the same location April 23, 1999!

CERULEAN WARBLER: Very rare in spring along the coast, one was a good find at Myrtle Beach St. Pk., SC May 4, as noted by Robin Carter and Dennis Forsythe.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: Very early arrivals included one at Bull Is., SC March 21 (Harry Davis) and five in the Beidler Forest, Harleyville, SC March 23 (Judy Walker et al.). A good find for the mountains was one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC April 12 (Ron Selve, Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Marilyn Westphal). Also two at C. Lookout, NC April 13 (John Fussell et al.) were unusual migrants, as this species does not breed there.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: One was rather early at Alligator River NWR, NC April 4, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

OVENBIRD: The Ovenbird that wintered in the Southern Shores area of the North Carolina Outer Banks, was last observed March 13 (Joan Kutulas, Jeff Lewis). Also unusual was the one that landed on a boat 50 miles off Murrell's Inlet, SC May 16 (Jack Peachey). This bird was not only out of place, but also was very late as a migrant.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: One at the Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Is., NC May 6 (Jeff Lewis) provided a very rare local sighting for the Outer Banks.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: This spring's reports of this rare migrant included one at the Savannah River Site, SC May 13 (Tracey Champlin, *fide* Paul Champlin), one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC May 10 (Harvey Neal, Ron Selve, Wayne Forsythe), and another there May 20 (Forsythe; John Lindfors).

WESTERN TANAGER: This species continued its winter season presence in the Carolinas with the female in a yard in Morehead City, NC being last seen March 10 (John Fussell). Elsewhere males were at a feeder in Lexington, SC in early April (*fide* Robin Carter) and in a yard in Wentworth, Rockingham County, NC April 18 & 21 (Ken Yount).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Rare spring sightings involved two east of Rocky Mount, NC March 2 (Ricky Davis) and one at Fletcher, Henderson

County, NC April 27 (Jon Smith). The latter bird provided a very rare mountain report.

VESPER SPARROW: Eight were on territory at Old Field Bald, Ashe County, NC May 15 (Merrill Lynch), a very good number for this declining species.

LARK SPARROW: The two that wintered at the Cherry Hospital, Wayne County, NC field were last seen March 8 (Eric Dean).

SAVANNAH SPARROW: Reports of Savannahs, very local breeders in the North Carolina mountains, are always noteworthy. One was in the Glade Valley area of Alleghany County May 1, as noted by Harry LeGrand. Toward the other end of the state, one was a late lingerer at Scotland Neck, NC May 26 (Ricky Davis).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Very rare and unusual in the mountains were single birds near Cashiers, NC April 5 (Nathan Dias, Burt Moore) and along Butler Farm Rd., Henderson County, NC April 24 into early May (Marilyn Westphal, sev. obs.).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: The Nelson's found near Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC during the winter season was last seen March 15 (Marilyn Westphal).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: The only reports received this spring involved one in extreme Edgecombe County, NC March 2 (Ricky Davis) and one in a yard in Winston-Salem, NC May 2 (David Dishner et al.). The latter bird was considered to be a rare spring migrant for that area.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: One banded at York, SC May 27 was very late (Bill Hilton, Jr.).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: The Hooper Lane, NC area continued to host this species with 4–5 there March 1 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall) and ten there March 7 (Wayne Forsythe). Elsewhere one east of St. Matthews, Calhoun County, SC March 8 (Robin Carter) was a good find for that Coastal Plain locality.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: The immature male present at a feeder in Elizabeth City, NC from the winter season was last observed April 22 (Dave Remaley)

LAZULI BUNTING: South Carolina's second documented Lazuli Bunting was an immature male present at a feeder in Walterboro March 30 to early April (Mary Douglas, Dennis Forsythe, sev. obs.).

DICKCISSEL: The only report received was of three at the Cherry Hospital fields, Wayne County, NC May 17 on into summer (Eric Dean).

SHINY COWBIRD: Once again the only Shiny Cowbirds found were at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 19 when a male and two females were present (Paul Sykes).

RED CROSSBILL: Always noteworthy, Red Crossbill reports included three at Balsam Campground, Heintooga Road, Great Smoky Mountains, NC May 25, as noted by Marilyn Westphal and Bob Olthoff.

Reviews

Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds

by Giff Beaton, Paul W. Sykes, Jr., and John W. Parrish, Jr.

Occasional Publication No. 14, Georgia Ornithological Society, 2003
spiral bound, 156 pp, references, index.

For an order form visit the GOS web site: www.gos.org

The Fifth Edition of *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* is a great example of what an annotated checklist for a state should be. It gives a short account of each bird species on the Georgia state list as of 31 December 2001, plus a few species added in 2002. The main body of the work covers 407 species on the Regular Species List, followed by a Provisional Species List of 8 species having fewer than 4 accepted sight records and a Hypothetical Species List of another 31 species for which no currently accepted sight records exist.

Other useful features of the book include a county outline map of Georgia (essential, since only a handful of enthusiasts knows the location of all Georgia counties), an outline map of the Georgia coast and adjacent offshore waters, and a map showing major rivers, large wetlands and reservoirs of Georgia, as well as a map of frequently mentioned localities.

The seasons of occurrence of bird species are not shown by a set of bar graphs, but such information is readily available in the text of the various species' accounts. Typically there are three to five species accounts per page, summarizing the status and distribution of the species in Georgia.

Here is an example of a species account (page 68):

Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis* *

Common summer resident breeding throughout state up to elevations of 520 meters, 5 Mar (1910, 1983)–29 Sep (1949); uncommon in Mountain region and Lookout Plateau. Extreme dates 3 Apr–6 Sep in Piedmont, 21 Mar–29 Sep in Coastal Plain, and 5 Mar–25 Sep on Coast. High counts: 34 at KBSB (*Camden*) on 4 May 1995 (P. Sykes pers. comm.) and also on 24 May 2001 in *Hall* (E. Horn pers. comm.). Accidental in winter in extreme south *Charlton* 28 Feb 1945 (Hebard 1945) and 5–19 Jan 1987 in Valdosta (B. Bergstrom, pers. comm.). An additional record is listed from Leigh Hill (*Charlton*) in Feb 1939 (Hebard 1941). This species winters as far north as the GA/FL state line and these last three records are probably of wintering birds. An additional record of a calling bird in *Baldwin* 9 Nov 1993 (Johnson 1998) probably represents a very late migrant. Sp: USNM 220656.

I have been using an annotated checklist of Georgia birds from GOS since the 1970's to keep details of where I first find a bird species in Georgia. The 1969 version, *Pocket Check-list, Georgia Birds*, which I have used so long is, indeed, a pocket sized book (4 inches by 6 inches), but with much less information than the latest version, which measures 7 inches by 10.5 inches. Here is the species account for Chuck-will's-widow from the 1969 edition:

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW

Common summer resident in all parts of state except mountains, breeding.

I will not be able to tuck the new checklist book into my pocket, but I will put it in the car whenever I go birding in Georgia. The spiral binding should hold up well in the field. Congratulations to GOS and all involved in producing this excellent tool for understanding the status and distribution of Georgia birds.—*Robin Carter, Columbia, SC*

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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The Carolina Bird Club, Inc. is a non-profit educational and scientific association founded in 1937. Membership is open to those interested in the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club may be deductible from state and federal income and estate taxes. Checks should be made payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. and sent to CBC Headquarters, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-1029.

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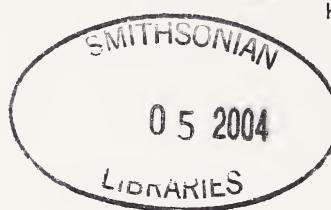
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South Carolina

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Credit for Summer 2003 Cover was omitted due to a printing error.

Cover (Worm-eating Warbler) by Dominick D'Ostilio, Hickory, NC

Spring 2003 North American Migration Count in South Carolina

Donna Slyce

321 Hope Ferry Road, Lexington, SC 29072

The Spring 2003 North American Migration Count was held on May 10, 2003. In South Carolina, 23,280 individuals of 202 species were tallied by 125 participants in 84 parties in 14 counties across the state. Temperatures across the state were typical, with the Upstate reporting milder temperatures than the Lowcountry. Hampton County was again the “hot spot” with a high temperature of 96° F. Unlike the count of spring 2002 when several Midlands counties reported heavy rains, there was no rain reported statewide on count day, and skies were mostly clear to partly cloudy in most localities. Only Charleston reported any significant cloud cover, overcast skies at sunset. Cherokee County was the only county to report significant wind, Beaufort scale 3 winds at midday continuing into the afternoon. The winds in all other counties were relatively calm.

As in the fall count summary, the data for all reported species of warblers for four years is presented in Table 1. Unlike the fall data, which could be considered to be only a reflection of migratory activity on that particular day, spring data may give small insights into the status of breeding birds in the state because the date of the spring count is well past the height of spring migration for most songbirds in this state and breeding season has begun for the Deep South. Also unlike the fall data, a few trends are somewhat evident, including troubling declines, some gradual, some dramatic, in warbler species that commonly breed in the state. Perhaps most troubling are the gradual declines among Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush. The gradual decline in the numbers of birds may be factual, not merely a “statistical anomaly”. A gradual decline would seem to indicate that although much the same type of habitat is surveyed from year to year and the number of individuals across species should therefore be relatively consistent, the birds are not there to be found any longer in their previous numbers. Also troubling are the dramatic declines in reported numbers of Kentucky Warbler and Black-and-white Warbler. At best these dramatic declines are simply cases of a temporary decrease in numbers due to an unsuccessful breeding season the previous year. For Kentucky Warblers, for example, the optimal breeding habitat is the low understory of boggy banks of creeks. Given the four-year drought that dried up many of the smaller creeks in the state during the period tabulated above, there was less optimal habitat available for Kentucky Warblers, leading to potentially less successful breeding seasons. However, the same is not true of Black-and-white Warblers, whose breeding requirements are less specific and encompass more common, drier habitat than the Kentucky Warbler’s breeding requirements. Continued monitoring of the spring data is suggested.

Table 1. Warbler counts for four years.

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Tennessee Warbler	0	0	0	1
Northern Parula	279	309	254	237
Yellow Warbler	9	8	2	6
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	1	0	0
Magnolia Warbler	2	1	1	0
Cape May Warbler	3	1	0	2
Black-throated Blue Warbler	7	7	9	22
Yellow-rumped Warbler	17	2	2	6
Black-throated Green Warbler	26	15	15	22
Yellow-throated Warbler	134	132	102	71
Pine Warbler	348	326	329	168
Prairie Warbler	72	65	47	40
Palm Warbler	1	0	4	1
Bay-breasted Warbler	0	1	0	1
Blackpoll Warbler	9	5	3	12
Black-and-white Warbler	22	27	14	15
American Redstart	38	24	24	41
Prothonotary Warbler	101	96	122	109
Worm-eating Warbler	5	16	7	11
Swainson's Warbler	9	15	9	8
Ovenbird	19	19	26	36
Northern Waterthrush	4	0	5	2
Louisiana Waterthrush	16	20	18	13
Kentucky Warbler	29	25	14	12
Common Yellowthroat	230	180	238	162
Hooded Warbler	57	63	61	60
Wilson's Warbler	0	1	0	0
Canada Warbler	0	0	0	2
Yellow-breasted Chat	112	93	92	55
TOTALS	1551	1452	1398	1115

Among the widespread species reported from every county were: Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Cardinal, and Red-winged Blackbird. The most

numerous of the widespread species was Red-winged Blackbird with 1407 individuals reported; the second most numerous was Northern Cardinal with 1161 individuals reported, and the third most numerous was Mourning Dove with 927 individuals reported. For sheer magnitude of numbers, shorebirds of sometimes limited distribution rank high. Semipalmated Sandpiper is the species with the highest number of individuals. Although only four counties (including the inland county of Lexington) reported Semipalmated Sandpiper, 7205 individuals were tallied. Dunlin, with 3351 individuals, and Semipalmated Plover, with 1728 individuals, were the second and third most numerous but were reported from only three coastal counties. Only Red-winged Blackbird and Northern Cardinal are both numerous (at greater than 1000 individuals reported) and widespread (reported from all surveyed counties).

Among the highlights of the Spring 2003 North American Migration Count are Dickcissel in Calhoun County, Red-breasted Merganser and Northern Gannet in Georgetown County, American Pipit and Barn Owl in Charleston County, Wilson's Phalarope and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in Jasper County, Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Beaufort County, Swamp Sparrow in Spartanburg County, and Bay-breasted Warbler and Least Flycatcher in Greenville County. Swallow-tailed Kite was found in three counties: Aiken, Hampton, and Jasper. Hooded Merganser was found in two coastal counties, Charleston and Georgetown. Pied-billed Grebe was found in Jasper and Richland counties. Table 2 lists 39 species that were "exclusives," found only in one county.

Table 2. Number of county exclusives.

Beaufort	1
Calhoun	1
Charleston	5
Chester	1
Georgetown	4
Greenville	5
Jasper	12
Richland	2
Spartanburg	8

County Summaries

Aiken County (AIKE): 107 species, 2656 individuals.

Coordinator: Anne Waters
 1648 Partridge Drive
 Aiken, SC 29803
 803-649-5929

Participants: Chuck Braun, Pam Byer, Adrienne DeBiase, Carol Eldridge, Larry Eldridge, Judy Gregory, Christine Huzella, James Keener, Paul

Koehler, George Reeves, Lois Stacey, Alice Walker, Doug Walker, Vernon Waters, Calvin Zippler

Aiken reported an almost "grand slam" on nocturnal species, lacking only one of seven exclusively nocturnal species. Aiken reported Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chuck-will's-widow and Whip-poor-will. Their tally lacked only Barn Owl, an increasingly difficult species to find in SC.

Beaufort County (BEAU): 62 species, 599 individuals.

Coordinator: Paige Mulholland
24 Big Woods Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
843-681-9983

Participants: Clem Dietz, Bryan Fluech, Tim White

Beaufort County reported one statewide exclusive, a lingering Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Beaufort also reported a nice diversity of birds more coastal in their distribution in the state, including Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black-bellied Plover, American Oystercatcher, and Whimbrel.

Calhoun County (CALH): 69 species, 608 individuals.

Coordinator: Bob Ellis
2402 Glenwood Road
Columbia, SC 29204
803-790-1549

Participants: Charles Vaughan

Calhoun County reported a very nice exclusive, Dickcissel, and a migrant warbler species, Blackpoll Warbler.

Charleston County (CHAR): 136 species, 7796 individuals.

Coordinator: Perry Nugent
2260 Dallerton Circle
Charleston, SC 29414
843-556-3841

Participants: Mrs. M. A. Aldenderfer, Paul Aldenderfer, Sue Ann Russell, Allen Russell, Chris Nugent, Ed Conradi, Marian Camberlain, Peg Clarke, Joan Hylander, Betty Zimmerman, Martha Stevenot, Joe Stevenot

Along with the really nice and previously mentioned Barn Owl and lingering American Pipit, Charleston County reported Herring Gull, Common Tern and Red Knot as exclusives. Lingering White-throated Sparrows were also on Charleston's tally.

Cherokee County (CHER): 75 species, 966 individuals.

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307
864-585-1228

Participants: Claude Cobb, Ken Garrett, J. B. Hines, Karla Lavender, Tina Pearsall, Alan Rose, B. J. Rose, Betty Jean Rose, Ed Wilde

Among the interesting species reported by Cherokee County were multiple Spotted Sandpipers and lingering Ring-billed Gulls. While both species are known to occur commonly inland, it is still interesting to find “shorebirds” in the Upper Piedmont. Among more expected species, Cherokee also reported House Wren and Song Sparrow, two species which breed in small numbers in the Upper Piedmont of South Carolina.

Chester County (CHES): 69 species, 1325 individuals.

Coordinator: Gail B. Ice
2356 Arabian
York, SC 29445
803-684-3242

Participants: Gail B. Ice

Chester County was the only county in the state to report Northern Waterthrush. Chester County also reported 700 Cliff Swallows, illustrating this species’ relatively recent expansion into the state and its continuing distribution along inland lakes.

Georgetown County (GEOR): 93 species, 1069 individuals.

Coordinator: Jack Peachey
103 Walnut Circle
Conway, SC 29526
843-347-5810

Participants: Dave Gustafson

Georgetown County reported four exclusives: Northern Gannet, American Bittern, Common Ground-Dove, and lingering Red-breasted Mergansers. The gannet, the mergansers and the American Bittern are very nice finds, harder to find in the spring season than in winter.

Greenville County (GREE): 103 species, 2325 individuals.

Coordinator: Peter L. Worthington
716 North Almond Drive
Simpsonville, SC 29681
864-967-4183

Participants: Linda Jones, Len Kopka, Jane Kramer, Gayle Lowe, Eric McFalls, Al Rees, Hilda Rees, Mac Sharpe, Donna Slyce

Common Raven, Least Flycatcher, Tennessee Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Cape May Warbler were the five exclusives reported by Greenville County. The Common Raven is a year-round resident at higher elevations in the county. The Tennessee Warbler and the Cape May Warbler are fairly common migrants through the Upstate. However, the Least Flycatcher and the Bay-breasted Warbler are distinctly uncommon migrants anywhere in the state and are nice finds.

Hampton County (HAMP): 80 species, 1152 individuals.

Coordinator: Carroll Richard
PO Box 893
Hampton, SC 29924
803-943-4661

Participants: Kathleen O'Grady, Jerry Raymond

As previously mentioned, Hampton was one of only three counties reporting Swallow-tailed Kite, always a nice bird to find in South Carolina. Hampton was also one of only three counties reporting Wood Stork, a species of somewhat limited and spotty distribution in the state.

Jasper County (JASP): 124 species, 17,355 individuals.

Coordinator: Pat Metz
1000 Business Center Drive, Suite 10
Savannah Georgia 31405
912-652-4415

Participants: Steve Calver, Andrew Chapman, Marcus Chapman, Tom Chapman, Diana Churchill, Valda Kelly, Ward Milner, Darien Montanez, Ray Porter, Richard Schulze, Jr.

As always when Jasper County reports, it makes a decided impact on the state tally. This year Jasper added 12 species as exclusives to the statewide tally: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Green-winged Teal, Sora, Wilson's Phalarope, Purple Gallinule, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Bonaparte's Gull, Northern Shoveler, Gull-billed Tern, American Avocet, Stilt Sandpiper and an unexpected Veery.

Lexington County (LEXI): 82 species, 1395 individuals.

Coordinator: Molly Bonnell
202 Cannon Trail Road
Lexington, SC 29072
803-359-6280

Participants: Andrea Ceselski, Barbara Darden

Lexington County reported the state's highest numbers of Eastern Kingbird with 60 individuals, as well as both Chuck-will's-widow and Whip-poor-will, an illustration of the Whip-poor-will's continuing range expansion east and south of its former breeding range in the Upstate. Lexington County also reported Semipalmated Sandpiper, a nice species to find this far inland.

Richland County (RICH): 98 species, 1437 individuals.

Coordinator: Robin Carter
4165 E. Buchanan Drive
Columbia, SC 29206
803-788-8820

Participants: Steve Dennis, Caroline Eastman, Alice Steinke, John Grego, Steve Tracey

Richland County reported two nice exclusives for the state: Gray-cheeked Thrush and Swainson's Thrush. Both species are migrants through the state and most easily detected by nocturnal listening.

Spartanburg County (SPAR): 113 species, 3041 individuals.

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307
864-585-1228

Participants: Tim Brown, Sarah Campbell, Alan Chalmers, Dan Codispoti, Tom Moore Craig, Glenn Englehardt, Tim Foster, Pat Fowler, Roy Fowler, Onoosh Gahagan, Robin Gilman, Jessie Ivy, Jack Jennings, Joel Jones, Herb Kay, Megan Long, Micky Marrotte, Angela Miller, Jim Miller, Margaret Miller [4 years old], Margaret Miller, Moss Miller [7 years old], Sam Miller [6 years old], Virl Momier, Pat Mulvaney, Nancy Owens, Ken Pearson, Lisa Pearson, Bob Powell, Hugh Pry, Janet Pry, Doug Rayner, Ginny Scott, Walton Scott, Tina Taylor, Dick Thorpe, Lois Thorpe, Gerald Thurmond, Nancy Wooten

Among Spartanburg County's eight exclusives are Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel, a lingering Hermit Thrush, Baltimore Oriole, Palm Warbler, and an excellent species to find in early May, Swamp Sparrow.

Sumter County (SUMT): 72 species, 1582 individuals.

Coordinator: Lloyd Moon
6150 Brookland Drive
Sumter, SC 29154
803- 494-3234

Participants: Ward N. Moon, Evelyn Dabbs, Kathleen Mallard

Sumter County reported a nice selection of birds, including inland White Ibis and Black-bellied Plover, Least Terns from the breeding colony at Shaw Air Force Base, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. The grosbeak is always a nice migrant to find in the state.

Table 3. North American Migration Count in South Carolina 10 May 2003

	# Counties Reporting Species	TOTAL Individuals	SUMT	SPAR	RICH	LEXI	JASP	HAMP	GREE	GEOR	CHES	CHER	CHAR	CALH	BEAU	AIKE
Pied-billed Grebe																
Northern Gannet																
Brown Pelican																
Double-crested Cormorant	24	2	24	84	2	2	14	12	29	13	31	1	2	1	1	2
Anhinga	66	16	16	2	6	6	41		24	24	254	12				
American Bittern				1								1		1	1	7
Least Bittern	9	1	53	1	4	10	4	8	4	1						3
Great Blue Heron	5	1	508	15	6	245										13
Great Egret	69	2	116	10	2	285										8
Snowy Egret	1	67	116	2	2	22	4									6
Little Blue Heron	4	1	116	5	2	102										149
Tricolored Heron	22	44	44	4	1	14	29	1	1	1	19					4
Cattle Egret	8	3	21	1	5	2	2	11	4	1	1					8
Green Heron	2	8	27	2	5	2										12
Black-crowned Night-Heron	5	19	19	1	1	9	5									3
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron								1								5
night-Heron sp.									190	132						1
White Ibis	64	1							15	15						4
Glossy Ibis																4
Wood Stork																16
Black Vulture																2
Turkey Vulture																3
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	12	2	4	86	9	4	13	49	4	7	3	16	13	16	82	14
	26	1	21	77	10	20	12	17	49	11	1					1

Pied-billed Grebe
 Northern Gannet
 Brown Pelican
 Double-crested Cormorant
 Anhinga
 American Bittern
 Least Bittern
 Great Blue Heron
 Great Egret
 Snowy Egret
 Little Blue Heron
 Tricolored Heron
 Cattle Egret
 Green Heron
 Black-crowned Night-Heron
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
 night-Heron sp.
 White Ibis
 Glossy Ibis
 Wood Stork
 Black Vulture
 Turkey Vulture
 Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

- Canada Goose
- Wood Duck
- Mallard
- Mottled Duck
- Blue-winged Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Green-winged Teal
- Hooded Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Ruddy Duck
- Osprey
- Swallow-tailed Kite
- Mississippi Kite
- Bald Eagle
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- buteo sp.
- American Kestrel
- Wild Turkey
- Northern Bobwhite
- Clapper Rail
- King Rail
- Sora
- Purple Gallinule

- Common Moorhen
- American Coot
- Black-bellied Plover
- Wilson's Plover
- Semipalmated Plover
- Killdeer
- American Oystercatcher
- Black-necked Stilt
- American Avocet
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Yellowlegs sp.
- Solitary Sandpiper
- Willow
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Whimbrel
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Red Knot
- Sanderling
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- White-rumped Sandpiper
- Pectoral Sandpiper
- Dunlin
- Stilt Sandpiper
- sandpiper sp.

- Short-billed Dowitcher
- Dowitcher sp.
- Wilson's Phalarope
- Laughing Gull
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Ring-billed Gull
- Herring Gull
- Gull-billed Tern
- Caspian Tern
- Royal Tern
- Sandwich Tern
- Common Tern
- Forster's Tern
- Least Tern
- Black Skimmer
- Rock Pigeon
- Eurasian Collared-Dove
- Mourning Dove
- Common Ground-Dove
- Black-billed Cuckoo
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Barn Owl
- Eastern Screech-Owl
- Great Horned Owl
- Barred Owl
- Common Nighthawk
- Chuck-will's-widow

- Whip-poor-will
- Chimney Swift
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Belted Kingfisher
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Red-cockaded Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Eastern Wood-Pewee
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
- Acadian Flycatcher
- Least Flycatcher
- Eastern Phoebe
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Eastern Kingbird
- Loggerhead Shrike
- White-eyed Vireo
- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Blue-headed Vireo
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Blue Jay
- American Crow
- Fish Crow

	# Counties Reporting Species	TOTAL Individuals					
SUMT		144	60	144	5	2	1
SPAR		2	4	6	2	1	2
RICH		23	54	5	310	11	
LEXI		17	23	1	390	5	
JASP		6	5	8	96	12	
HAMP		1	40	2	7	4	
GREE		30	44	6	73	50	
GEOR		16	54	2	71	5	
CHES		4	19	3	62	62	
CHER		1	3	62	62	5	
CHAR		5	700	14	6	6	
CALH		32	75	23	2	8	
BEAU		1	41	22	47	6	
AIKE		47	5	5	9	15	
	12	2	23	20	39	16	
	43	22	52	44	73	877	4
	364	6	54	7	11	580	13
	5	25	16	19	23	309	14
	35	4	4	3	62	465	14
	3	1	8	3	2	35	8
	10	14	19	5	6	87	10
	61	8	54	14	6	393	13
	44	1	5	22	52	15	3
	32	2	6	41	43	15	
	20	15	1	6	5	1	
	28	5	1	4	5	1	
	78	2	74	5	22	260	12
	9	74	5	1	7	350	14
	2	20	20	12	1	1	
	1	8	7	30	39	1	
	1	53	8	61	7	1	
	20	5	20	29	47	1	
	39	5	12	4	1	1	
	49	20	20	1	3	3	
	7	1	4	14	1	1	
	20	1	2	98	2	1	
	3	2	2	2	23	35	
	2	74	20	3	23	114	
	2	3	2	2	4	4	
	1	1	1	1	4	4	
	29	3	2	2	3	38	10
	7	3	2	2	2	6	410
						6	12
						8	13

crow sp.
 Common Raven
 Horned Lark
 Purple Martin
 Tree Swallow
 Northern Rough-winged
 Swallow
 Bank Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Carolina Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown-headed Nuthatch
 Carolina Wren
 House Wren
 Marsh Wren
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Eastern Bluebird
 Veery
 Gray-cheeked Thrush
 Swainson's Thrush
 Hermit Thrush
 Wood Thrush
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird

	# Counties Reporting	Species	TOTAL	Individuals								
SUMT					40	718	13					
SPAR					21	234	14					
RICH					80	117	13					
LEXI					6	342	8					
JASP					1	1	1					
HAMP					237	237	13					
GREE					6	6	3					
GEOR					2	2	1					
CHES					22	22	4					
CHER					6	6	2					
CHAR					14	14	1					
CALH					1	1	1					
BEAU					1	1	1					
AIKE					1	1	1					

Northern Mockingbird
 Brown Thrasher
 European Starling
 American Pipit
 Cedar Waxwing
 Tennessee Warbler
 Northern Parula
 Yellow Warbler
 Cape May Warbler
 Black-throated Blue Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Black-throated Green Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler
 Pine Warbler
 Prairie Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Bay-breasted Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Black-and-white Warbler
 American Redstart
 Prothonotary Warbler
 Worm-eating Warbler
 Swainson's Warbler
 Ovenbird
 Northern Waterthrush
 Louisiana Waterthrush
 Kentucky Warbler

	# Counties Reporting	TOTAL		Individuals		
SUMT		6	1	71	2	4
SPAR		8	3	4	2	52
RICH		7	2	5	1	1
LEXI		43	1	26	5	1
JASP		6	3	16	7	4
HAMP		39	4	2	4	1
GREE		5	1	6	5	33
GEOR		5	2	1	1	1
CHES		3	6	5	6	17
CHER		3	1	1	1	1
CHAR		4	3	11	1	4
CALH		4	4	35	2	14
BEAU		4	1	1	2	3
AIKE		46	25	197	7	29
Common Yellowthroat		178	46	36	7	28
Hooded Warbler		4	4	36	7	28
Canada Warbler		11	1	4	1	4
Yellow-breasted Chat		23	36	15	6	1
Summer Tanager		92	18	27	3	10
Scarlet Tanager		1	1	1	1	1
Eastern Towhee						
Bachman's Sparrow						
Chipping Sparrow						
Field Sparrow						
Savannah Sparrow						
Grasshopper Sparrow						
Song Sparrow						
Swamp Sparrow						
White-throated Sparrow						
Dark-eyed Junco						
Northern Cardinal						
Rose-breasted Grosbeak						
Blue Grosbeak						
Indigo Bunting						
Painted Bunting						
Dickcissel						
Bobolink		45	15	13	10	33
Red-winged Blackbird		11	1	32	36	19
Eastern Meadowlark		183	17	368	120	40
Common Grackle						
Boat-tailed Grackle						

Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
Canada Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Towhee
Bachman's Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Painted Bunting
Dickcissel
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Common Grackle
Boat-tailed Grackle

	# Counties Reporting Species	TOTAL Individuals	SUMT	SPAR	RICH	LEXI	JASP	HAMP	GREE	GEOR	CHES	CHER	CHAR	CALH	BEAU	AIKE
Brown-headed Cowbird	16	3	5	24	4	4	11	10	15	24	13	24	69	222	13	
Orchard Oriole	10	1	22	3	3	1	14	14	30	5	6	115	6	115	12	
Baltimore Oriole															2	1
Purple Finch															22	1
House Finch	40	10	25	5	4	4	29	5	16	24	55	9	222	11		
American Goldfinch	26	6	9	2	1	1	32	3	14	6	41	2	141	10		
House Sparrow	28	2	14	14	1	30	17	13	32	20	1	158				
Species Individuals	107	62	69	136	75	69	93	103	80	124	82	98	113	72	212	
	2656	599	608	7796	966	1325	1069	2325	1152	17355	1395	1437	3041	1582	43306	
TIME START	05:00	06:30	07:22	05:00	08:00	07:00	07:00	05:00	05:30	06:30	06:15	05:30	06:00	06:00		
TIME STOP	20:15	13:00	15:52	18:00	18:30	17:00	17:00	19:00	20:30	20:15	17:30	19:20	23:00	18:15		
Observers Parties	16	4	2	13	10	1	2	10	3	11	3	6	40	4	125	
	9	1	1	10	7	1	2	10	2	4	2	2	30	3	84	
Hours foot	29	2	-	17	8	4	9	16.75	15.5	17	0	8	38.5	11	175.75	
Hours car	12.5	4	-	13.5	10.5	6	3	16.5	5	13	11	4	805	11.75	915.75	
Hours boat	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	
Hours canoe/kayak	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	
Hours bike	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.5	
Hours other	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	
Miles foot	16	1	-	8.5	10.5	7	6	6	8	9	0	6	34	8	120	
Miles car	188	15	-	140	86	125	80	250	131	76	177	145	190	135	1738	

Brown-headed Cowbird
 Orchard Oriole
 Baltimore Oriole
 Purple Finch
 House Finch
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow

Species Individuals

TIME START

TIME STOP

Observers Parties

Hours foot

Hours car

Hours boat

Hours canoe/kayak

Hours bike

Hours other

Miles foot

Miles car

	Hours	Feeder	Watch	TEMPERATURE	PRE-DAWN
Miles boat					DAWN
Miles canoe/kayak					AM
Miles bike					NOON
Miles other					PM
					SUNSET
					NIGHT
Hours	Stationary	#Feeder Watchers	Hours Owling	TEMPERATURE	PRE-DAWN
		#Feeder Stations	Miles Owling		DAWN
			#parties owling		AM
			#observers owling		NOON
					PM
					SUNSET
					NIGHT

# Counties Reporting Species TOTAL Individuals	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	10	10	10	10	20	20	30	20	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUMT	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	10	10	10	10	20	20	30	20	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
SPAR	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
RICH	0	0	1	2	2	2	3	-	80	80	10	20	20	20	25	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
LEXI	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JASP	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	0	4	4	4	5	5	2	2	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
HAMP	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	-	10	10	5	35	15	10	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
GREE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
GEOR	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	10	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHES	1	1	1	1	2	1	-	0	0	0	5	7	10	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHER	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHAR	-	0	1	1	1	1	-	0	0	10	40	10	100	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
CALH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BEAU	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
AIKE	0	1	2	2	1	1	-	0	0	10	10	20	15	10	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0

WIND:

PRE-DAWN
DAWN
AM
NOON
PM
SUNSET
NIGHT

%CLOUDS:

PRE-DAWN
DAWN
AM
NOON
PM
SUNSET
NIGHT

General Field Notes

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General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, or significant nesting records; or summaries of such items. Submit manuscripts to the appropriate state editor.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

House Wrens Nesting in Columbia, South Carolina

John Cely

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On 21 June 2003, my next-door neighbor in Forest Acres, a suburb of Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina, told me of a wren nesting in one of his bird boxes that was “smaller and grayer than a Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) with no eye stripe and a sweet song”. Upon investigating, I soon saw a House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) enter the box. Because the box had no access other than the entrance hole, I had to use an inspection mirror and drop light to see the contents, which consisted of three recently-hatched young.

I checked the box several times over the next 16 days and found the nest empty, with one unhatched egg, on 6 July 2003. Three well-feathered young were in the box during the previous inspection of 4 July, and I assumed the young successfully fledged. Johnson (1998) reported a fledging age of 16–18 days for House Wrens, with a clutch size ranging from a low of four to a high of seven or eight eggs. The clutch size of second nestings for House Wrens, typically in “late June or July”, is smaller, four to six eggs, than first clutches of six to eight eggs (Johnson 1998). Whether this nesting effort was

the first or second is unknown, although my neighbor informed me this was the first time he had seen the House Wren nest in his yard.

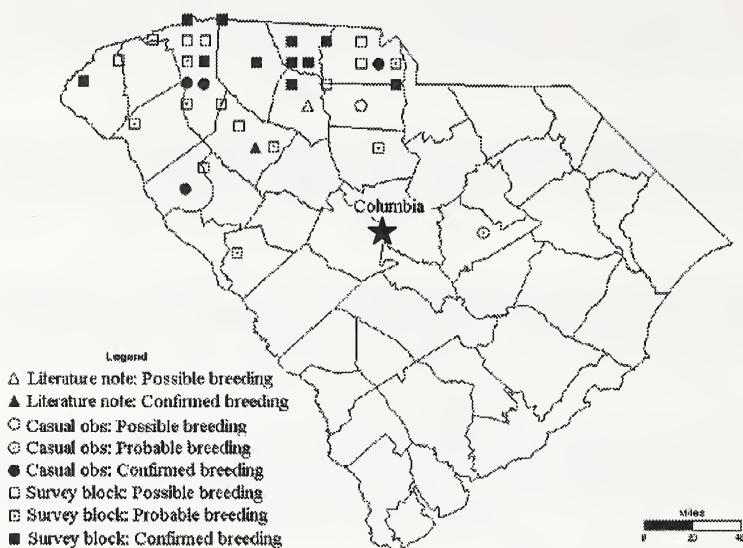


Figure 1 Breeding distribution of House Wrens in South Carolina, based on the South Carolina Breeding Bird Atlas, 1988–1995.

House Wrens have been traditionally considered as “northern birds”, although they have probably been expanding their breeding range southward in the United States since the first forests were cleared for agriculture and residences by European settlers (Johnson 1998). The first documented breeding record for South Carolina was in a yard in Spartanburg in 1950 (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949). Since then House Wrens have expanded their breeding range throughout South Carolina’s Upper Piedmont (Post and Gauthreaux 1989). Surveys during the South Carolina Breeding Bird Atlas (1988–1995) showed probable House Wren breeding records as far south as Winnsboro and Edgefield (Fig. 1). An outlying record from Sumter County in 1991 was apparently an unmated bird building “dummy” nests in bluebird boxes (Lex Glover pers. comm.).

Columbia is located in the center of the state on the Fall Line separating the Piedmont from the Coastal Plain. Forest Acres is a mature subdivision first developed after World War II and features a prominent overstory of 20–30 m tall loblolly pines (*Pinus taeda*) with scattered oaks (*Quercus* sp.), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), maples (*Acer* sp.) and other hardwoods. Lots are large, at least one-half acre, with well-developed hedgerows and shrubbery. Johnson (1998) notes that during times of expansion and at the edges of their breeding range, House Wrens are closely associated with areas of human habitation. Birders in the Columbia area and the rest of central South Carolina should be on the alert for the possibility of

more nesting activity by House Wrens. Caution should be used when interpreting nesting status, as the males are noted for building dummy nests that never get used (Kennedy and White 1992).

I wish to thank Lex Glover for reviewing this note.

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Boat-tailed Grackle Uses a Marsh Wren Nest as a Platform: An Example of Limited Nest Site Availability in Salt Marshes

William Post, John A. Herbert and Megan Barkes

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On 15 July 2003, Herbert and Barkes found a Boat-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major*) nest that had been built on top of a Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) nest, located in smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) growing on the edge of a tidal creek joining the Stono River, Johns Island, Charleston County, South Carolina. Neither the grackle nest nor the wren nest was in use, although the grackle nest contained one egg, which upon examination appeared to have been abandoned for at least two weeks. The grackle nest was 1.2 m above the mud and within 1 m of the creek edge. The height of the cordgrass to which the nests were attached, and that of the surrounding grass, was 2 m. The grackle nest was an open cup, outside diameter, 18 cm; height, 11 cm, both within the reported range for the species (Post et al. 1996). Although the grackle nest was attached to six stems of cordgrass, the top of the wren nest (10 x 18 cm) formed the main support for its nest (Fig. 1; specimen no. ChM 2003.).

The wren nest had a well-defined entrance hole and was lined, which would indicate that it had been occupied by a female (Kroodsma and Verner 1997), but it had no traces of egg shells or other materials indicating that it had actually held eggs. The grackle nest did not appear to have fledged young, as the nest was not fouled, as would have been the case if it had produced fledglings (Post et al. 1996).



Figure 1. Boat-tailed Grackle nest built on Marsh Wren nest in *Spartina alterniflora*, Johns Island, South Carolina, 15 July 2003. Digital photograph by Peter S. Coleman.

The grackle nest was about 300 m from the closest grackle nesting colony, which was in several southern red cedars (*Juniperus silicicola*) on a spoil island. Isolated nests are uncommon in the Boat-tailed Grackle. This case may represent the nesting of a first-year female or that of a female that had failed in its first nesting attempt (Post 1998).

Although several publications state that Boat-tailed Grackles nest in salt marshes, we have been unable to locate any specific documentation of their nesting in smooth cordgrass, which is the predominant vegetation of regularly-flooded salt marshes on the Atlantic coast. Our survey is based on data from 1200 oology slips and nest cards filed at the Charleston Museum. Boat-tailed Grackles that nest in non-tidal marshes occasionally use old nests as platforms for new ones (Post et al. 1996).

Sprunt (1958) reported that Boat-tailed Grackles nested in "Bullrushes (*Spartina alterniflora*)". The vernacular name he used for *S. alterniflora* may mean that he was referring to *Scirpus* spp. (bulrush), which grow in low-salinity (irregularly-flooded) marshes at higher elevations. Among passerines found on the Atlantic coast, it appears that only Marsh Wrens regularly nest in regularly-flooded (low) salt marshes. This niche is available to wrens because of their ability to weave their nests into supporting vegetation, and

thus at heights above spring tides (Kale 1965.) Although Marsh Wren nests are not well concealed, their contents are well hidden within a domed structure.

Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) occasionally nest in regularly-flooded salt marshes (Post 1988) but like Marsh Wrens must select nest sites that are high enough to avoid flooding. Unlike wrens, however, blackbirds must place their open nests low enough so that they are well concealed by surrounding vegetation. These conflicting requirements greatly reduce nest site availability for Red-winged Blackbirds in the same way that they would for Boat-tailed Grackles.

Our findings indicate that given suitable substrates, female Boat-tailed Grackles are able to colonize low salt marshes. In such habitats, suitable nest sites are usually lacking, however, which would preclude aggregations of nesting females. As nest success in this species is related to coloniality (Post 1994, 1998), isolated nests such as the one described here may rarely succeed.

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BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Summer 2003, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	December 1–February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1–May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1–July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1–November 30	due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

PACIFIC LOON: Very rare and unexpected in summer was a Pacific at Pea Is. NWR, NC July 3 (Mike Skakuj), and later in the S. Nags Head, NC area July 15–19 (Jeff Lewis, Skip Morgan; Brad Carlson).

COMMON LOON: This species lingered in North Carolina in much higher than normal numbers this summer. Inland were one in alternate plumage near Wilson June 7 (Clyde Sorenson) and one on Jordan Lake June 27 (Ginger Travis, Lena Gallitano). One was in Bogue Inlet June 30 (Sam Cooper), but it was along the Outer Banks that numbers were greatest. Two

were found in the surf at Nags Head June 20 (Patrick Brisse) and June 29 (Jeff Lewis). Singles were at Pea Is. NWR July 1 and Oregon Inlet July 6 (Mike Skakuj). On July 20, an amazing count of 18 different individuals was had from Whalebone at Nags Head south to Pea Is. NWR (Ricky Davis). It was felt that this many loons remaining in our waters was partly due to the fact that cool Labrador Current water remained in place along the immediate coast much longer than normal this year.

HERALD PETREL: Only one was found on offshore pelagic trips this summer, that being a dark individual off Hatteras, NC June 7 (Brian Patteson et al.).

FEA'S PETREL: One was a good find only 25 miles southeast of Hatteras, NC June 14 (Brian Patteson), a rare report so close to shore.

GREATER SHEARWATER: One was seen just past the breakers at S. Nags Head, NC June 20, as noted by Patrick Brisse.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: There were several onshore reports of this species this summer. In North Carolina, three were found dead on the beach at Atlantic Beach July 24 (John Fussell), one was at Shackleford Banks, Carteret County July 20 (Scott Baron, Elisa Enders), and one was in the surf at S. Nags Head July 20 (Ricky Davis). In South Carolina, one was just past the surf at Ocean Drive Beach July 26 (Jeff Beane et al.).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: Only one was reported this summer, that being off Manteo, NC July 26 (Brian Patteson et al.).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD: Reports of this tropicbird off North Carolina continued from the spring with an immature off Hatteras June 7 (Brian Patteson et al.) and others off Hatteras June 14 and 30 (Patteson). Coupled with the spring birds, the birds this summer made this year the best ever for this normally very rare species.

MASKED BOOBY: A sub-adult Masked was a complete surprise onshore when found at Beacon Is., Ocracoke Inlet, NC July 18 (John Weske et al.). The bird was seen to fly away toward Ocracoke that day. Elsewhere, where more expected, one was a good find off Manteo, NC July 26 (Brian Patteson et al.).

NORTHERN GANNET: Another species present this summer in higher than normal numbers was the Northern Gannet. In South Carolina, one was at Pawleys Island June 25 (*fide* Will Cook) and probably the same bird was seen at Litchfield Beach June 26 (Ann Shahid & Cherrie Snead). In North Carolina, two adults were at S. Nags Head June 19 (Patrick Brisse) and three immatures were there June 20 (Brisse). Also an immature was at Bogue Inlet June 30 (Sam Cooper), three immatures were at S. Nags Head July 20 (Ricky Davis), and an immature was at Cape Lookout July 27 (Wade Fuller).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: The flock present throughout the summer at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC, peaked at 101 on July 27, as noted by Steve Calver.

BROWN PELICAN: Inland reports of Brown Pelican are always noteworthy. This summer three were found in the western portions of North Carolina. One was at L. Junaluska in early June (*fide* Wayne Forsythe), one

was at L. Wylie June 28–July 1 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), and one was on High Point Lake, Jamestown, NC June 15–16 (Tom Shepherd).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: This summer's sightings of frigatebirds involved singles at C. Hatteras, NC June 29 (*fide* Russ Tyndall) and at S. Nags Head, NC July 11 (W. Hull, *fide* Ricky Davis).

AMERICAN BITTERN: Uncommon summer reports included singles at Palmetto Peartree Preserve, Tyrrell County, NC June 12 (Jeff Lewis) and near Rimini, Clarendon County, SC June 26 (Lloyd Moon).

LEAST BITTERN: Always noteworthy in the Piedmont, one was observed in flight at the marsh on Big Woods Rd. near Jordan Lake, Chatham County, NC June 15 (Ricky Davis).

SNOWY EGRET: A huge feeding flock of 5200 Snowies was found at an impoundment on Wimbee Creek, Colleton County, SC July 31 (Will Post). This represents an unprecedented number for the Carolinas.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: Uncommon this far inland, one was at Fletcher Park, Henderson County, NC July 16 (John Lindfors) and two were near the French Broad River, Henderson July 22–23 (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe).

TRICOLORED HERON: This species is a common inland wanderer to at least the central portions of the Carolinas, but mountain sightings are extremely rare. This summer two were near the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC July 22–August 3 (Wayne Forsythe). There were only a couple of previous reports for the western part of the state.

REDDISH EGRET: Reddish Egrets were found at the usual locations with up to three being at the east end of Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC July 20 (Scott Baron & Elisa Enders), two at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC July 21 (Stephen Thomas), and one at Ft. Fisher, NC June 29 (Ricky Davis).

CATTLE EGRET: Eight Cattle Egrets were unexpected near Margarettsville, Northampton County, NC June 14 (Todd Day et al.).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Two were unusual at a pond near Trenton, NC June 2, as noted by Clancy Ballenger. Elsewhere, the nesting colony in the Winston-Salem, NC area was very successful this year with over a dozen young fledgling (Ramona Snavely).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: One was found at L. Medcalf, Sunset Beach, NC July 30 (Diane Hahn) providing a very noteworthy report for North Carolina. In South Carolina, a flock was present at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County from June 27 until the end of the summer. The peak count was eight on July 6, as noted by Steve Calver.

WOOD STORK: Wood Storks were present at the usual Sunset Beach, NC area for much of the summer. Ten was a good count for early in the season on June 8 (Ricky Davis), and the peak count there was 50 on July 31 (Mary McDavit). Elsewhere in North Carolina, where reports are much more unusual, one was along NC 41 two miles east of the Bladen–Robeson County line June 14 (Buddy Garrett), one was over Howell Woods, Johnston County June 24 (Susan Campbell et al.), and four were over the Cape Fear River at the Bladen–Columbus County line June 29 (Davis).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: This species was reported from many areas in the eastern US this summer, probably consisting of dispersing birds from the Florida population. Sightings in the Carolinas included two near Sneads Ferry, NC June 10 (Susan Cohen, *fide* John Fussell), a “flock” at Savannah NWR, SC June 13 (Diana Churchill), 1–2 at Donnelley WMA, SC July 28 (Nathan Dias et al.) and July 29 (Mary McDavit), up to 9 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC June 27 (Steve Calver), and 15 at a pond in S. Tibwin, Charleston County, SC June 5 (Ritch Lilly).

MUTE SWAN: A group of five Mute Swans at Pea Is. NWR, NC June 20 (Patrick Brisse) was unusual, and disturbing in that there could be wandering Mutes at this time of year.

AMERICAN WIGEON: One was late at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC June 1 (Steve Calver).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: A noteworthy nesting record came from the Savannah Spoil Site, SC this summer with two different broods of Blue-winged Teal, a species found breeding in the state only a handful of times. A female with eight young was seen June 13 and a female with two young was found June 27 (Steve Calver).

GREATER SCAUP: One was very unusual in lingering at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC until June 27, as noted by Steve Calver.

LESSER SCAUP: Lingering Lessers included a group of five in Georgetown County, SC June 7 (Gary Phillips) and two on L. Marion, SC June 26 (Lloyd Moon).

SURF SCOTER: A Surf Scoter spending the summer in the Ft. Macon, NC area (Randy Newman) was considered very unusual since most of the lingering scoters along our coast are Blacks.

HOODED MEGANSER: Summer reports of Hooded Merganser, although annual, are nevertheless noteworthy. This year three young were found at a pond near Trenton, NC June 2 (Clancy Ballenger) in an area where breeding has occurred in the past. Also, an adult bird was at Magnolia Plantation, SC June 15 (Perry Nugent et al.).

RED-BREASTED MEGANSER: This summer’s sightings included females at Oregon Inlet, NC July 4–5 (Mike Skakuj) and the Shallotte River, NC July 30 (Bob Perkins).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: The Swallow-tailed Kites present along the Cape Fear River, NC since May continued throughout the summer and caused much speculation about breeding in that area. The birds were mostly in the area centered along the Bladen–Columbus County line at the river. Up to four were present throughout June (sev. obs.), six were seen and several photographed July 5 (Harry Sell), and 10 were counted over a nearby field July 19 (Sam Moore, Mark Simpson). Actual breeding evidence was not obtained but there were several apparently young birds present in the flock during July. Elsewhere rare wandering individuals were found at Rodanthe, NC June 27 (*fide* Sam Cooper) and near Chapel Hill, NC July 8 (*fide* Cynthia Fox). The peak count from one of the usual locations was the 34 south of Allendale, SC July 26 (Robin Carter & Caroline Eastman).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: In North Carolina, this species was again found breeding at several of the usual sites such as 2–3 nests at Roanoke Rapids, NC (Frank Enders) and several in Goldsboro, NC (Eric Dean). A new location for probable breeding was along the Tar River in Rocky Mount where birds were present all summer with one juvenile being attended by two adults at a nearby roosting site for most of July (Ricky Davis).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: This very uncommon summer bird in the Carolinas was reported three times, all from the mountains. One was found west of Richland Balsam, NC, and one was seen carrying food north of Craggy Gardens, NC, both in mid-June (Helmut Mueller). Also, one was at Hendersonville, NC June 13, as noted by Simon Thompson.

COOPER'S HAWK: This species is more widespread during the summer than the preceding species. Nevertheless, noteworthy breeding reports included a pair at Darlington, Halifax County, NC June 13 (Frank Enders), a nest with four young (highly publicized by the media!) on the NCSU campus in Raleigh, NC (Will Rowland, Lena Gallitano, m. obs.), a pair on the Duke campus, Durham, NC June 24 (Will Cook), a nest in Greenville, SC during June (Steve Smith, *fide* Robin Carter), and an impressive four known nesting pairs, each with 3–4 young, in the Winston-Salem, NC area (Ramona Snavely et al.).

GOLDEN EAGLE: Two immature Goldens were seen at Bakers Mt. Park, Catawba County, NC June 22 (Dwayne Martin). This highly unusual summer report is from the same area where an adult and one immature were found during the spring!

AMERICAN KESTREL: Locally unusual was the kestrel found at Snake Mt., Watauga County, NC June 4 (Chris Wilson, Merrill Lynch).

AMERICAN COOT: This species is a very rare nester in the Carolinas, although summering birds are found most years. Thus of note were the two nesting records from the Savannah Spoil Site, SC this summer (Steve Calver). An adult with 10 young was seen July 6 and an adult on a nest was observed July 27.

WILSON'S PLOVER: There were several excellent counts of this species reported this summer. A total of 59 Wilson's were on Deveaux Bank, SC July 31 (Will Post), and 60 were at the east end of Shackleford Banks, NC July 27 (John Fussell et al.).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: The peak count at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC this summer was the impressive total of 813 on June 27 (Steve Calver).

UPLAND SANDPIPER: The only Uppies found this summer involved singles at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm July 27 (Steve Compton) and at Hooper Lane, NC July 29 (Wayne Forsythe).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: Sightings this season included one at Oregon Inlet, NC June 11 (Marcia Lyons), one at the Ocracoke, NC flats (John Weske, Jim O'Donnell), and 1–2 at the east end of Shackleford Banks, NC July 20 (Scott Baron, Elisa Enders) and July 27 (John Fussell et al.).

DUNLIN: Two at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC June 13 were considered to be rather late spring birds for that southern area (Steve Calver).

CURLEW SANDPIPER: One adult was at Oregon Inlet, NC July 5–6 (Hayes & Joyce Williams, Mike Skakuj) for the only report this summer.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: The only inland fall migrant reported was in Henderson County, NC July 26 (Wayne Forsythe).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: One photographed at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC June 13 was not only very late but also provided a probable first summer record for that locality (Steve Calver).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: One at Pea Is. NWR, NC July 1 (Mike Skakuj) and six there July 12 (Jeff Lewis) were the only ones reported from North Carolina this summer.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: Up to three were rare onshore, and late, at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC June 3–4, as noted by Steve Calver.

POMARINE JAEGER: One was seen from shore at Caswell Beach, NC June 7, a rare event for that state's southern coastal area (Ricky Davis).

LAUGHING GULL: This summer's inland-wandering Laughings involved singles at Falls Lake, NC June 9 (Brian Bockhahn) and L. Norman, NC July 2 (Taylor Piephoff).

BONAPARTE'S GULL: One in basic plumage was observed at Bogue Inlet, NC June 30 (Sam Cooper), a most unusual summer occurrence.

CASPIAN TERN: Unusual inland summer sightings included two in the mountains at L. Junaluska, NC June 18 (Bob Olthoff) and four in a plowed field near L. Phelps, NC June 21 (Harry LeGrand, Jr., Jeff Pippen).

"CAYENNE" SANDWICH TERN: One was photographed at Ft. Fisher, NC April 5 (Pru Williams and Cindy Grimes). Susan Campbell saw the photos and confirmed the identification. This represents about the seventh report of this Caribbean subspecies for North Carolina.

ROSEATE TERN: Two adults were good finds at Pea Is. NWR, NC July 5 (Mike Skakuj). There have been few reports of this species the last several years.

SOOTY TERN: The peak count from North Carolina waters was 69 off Hatteras July 19 (Brian Patteson et al.), a good total for the summer season. Much more interesting was the presence of two near Harkers Is., NC June 22 (John Fussell et al.). The birds were hanging around an island as if possibly nesting, an event which has happened before in that area.

BLACK TERN: One was a good find at Falls Lake, NC June 15 (Ricky Davis). Was this a late spring bird, or an early fall bird? A flock of 40 at Pea Is. NWR, NC July 12 obviously consisted of returning birds (Jeff Lewis).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: White-winged Doves have been found in the Carolinas on a regular basis the last couple of years. This summer one was at a feeder in Buxton, NC June 1 (Kelley Van Druten), one was heard near Roxboro L., Person County, NC June 8 (Jeff Pippen), and one was at Bear Is. WMA, Colleton County, SC July 19 (Robin Carter).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: One at Trenton, NC June 2 (Clancy Ballenger) was either a late spring migrant or one of the few that have been known to spend the summer in some Coastal Plain pocosin habitats.

CHIMNEY SWIFT: Two at Chimney Rock Park, NC June 29 (Simon Thompson) were observed flying in behind a waterfall. This was surprising since this behavior is not normally seen in Chimney Swifts.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: An adult male at a feeder near Hillsborough, NC June 6-8 (Ginger Travis) provided only the second record of a Rufous in North Carolina in June. The first was the one that wintered and then summered at a Raleigh, NC feeder last year.

ALDER FLYCATCHER: One heard at Bodie Is., NC June 4 (Eloise Potter, Nell Barkley) provided a late, locally unusual occurrence for that coastal locality.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: An extremely unusual and out-of-range breeding record involved a Willow with two young in a nest at Caw Caw Park, Ravenel, Charleston County, SC this summer. Several birds were present from the spring and the nest was located in early June (Perry Nugent et al.). Apparently the nest failed but at least one individual was present until July. Also of interest is the fact that Willows have been found at this site several times in summer since the late 1990s.

GRAY KINGBIRD: Only one was found this summer, that being at Edisto Beach St. Pk., SC July 27 (Paul Champlin).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Nests of this species are rarely reported; thus of note was one with young along Raynor Mill Rd., Wayne County, NC June 3 (Clyde Sorenson). Also of interest were the two adults and four recently fledged juveniles at the Ft. Fisher, NC monument overlook June 7 (Ricky Davis). One near North River, Carteret County, NC July 13 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell) was apparently on the move and was not seen on later visits. This was the first shrike seen in that county by Fussell in about 20 years!

WHITE-EYED VIREO: One found singing on Bluff Mt., Ashe County, NC June 15 was at a rather high elevation (3200 ft) for the species (Merrill Lynch).

WARBLING VIREO: One was still at the Dairyland Rd. area of Orange County, NC July 28, as noted by Haven Wiley.

TREE SWALLOW: A pair that fledged four young at Huntersville, Mecklenburg County, NC July 1 provided a probable first breeding record for the county (Mary McDaniel, Dave LaBounty).

WINTER WREN: One on territory at Three Top Mt., Ashe County, NC June 18 was at a low elevation (3800 ft) for the breeding season (Merrill Lynch, Chris Wilson).

HERMIT THRUSH: Summer reports of this mountain breeder are always noteworthy. Singles were found in the Black Mountains at Blankstock Knob June 21 and at a gap between Mt. Mitchell and Mt. Craig July 4 (Marcus Simpson).

GRAY CATBIRD: One that had just fledged at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC July 19 provided the first documented proof of nesting in extreme southern coastal South Carolina (Will Post, Paul Sykes).

CEDAR WAXWING: This species once again remained in the eastern portions of North Carolina during the summer. A rare nesting record was

provided by a pair at a nest at Wyse Fork, Jones County June 6 (Wade Fuller, Rich Boyd). Other reports involved no nesting evidence but included three in Green Level, Chatham County July 16 (Merrill Lynch), four on the Dare County mainland June 21 (Jeff Lewis), and two on Roanoke Is. for much of the summer (Lewis).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: There are very few Magnolia Warblers in the North Carolina mountains each summer. Thus of note were singing males at Potato Knob, Black Mts., NC June 25 (Marcus Simpson) and at Roan Mt., NC June 2–July 14 (Rick Knight).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: A singing male and a female were observed at Laurel Ridge, Mitchell County, NC June 2 (Chris Wilson) at an elevation of 3080 ft in a chestnut oak-dominant forest. This is a rather low elevation and the absence of hemlock made this sighting unusual.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: One was a surprise in pocosin habitat at L. Phelps, NC June 21, as noted by Harry LeGrand, Jr. and Jeff Pippen.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: One was a late spring migrant in northern Edgecombe County, NC June 2 (Ricky Davis).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: One was considered to be an early fall migrant at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC June 22 (Simon Thompson) as the species is not known to nest there.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Very late were a singing individual on Roanoke Is., NC June 5 (Jeff Lewis) and one near Greensboro, NC June 17–25 (Emily Tyler).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: An adult was photographed in a yard at Myrtle Beach, SC June 1 (Phil & Sharon Turner), providing the first June report for the species in that state.

DICKCISSEL: A pair, first noted in the spring, was observed carrying nesting material at the Cherry Hospital area, Wayne County, NC June 1 (Ricky Davis). No further breeding evidence was obtained, however. Elsewhere singing males were noted at a usual Gaston County, NC site June 6 (Simon Thompson) and along Dairyland Rd., Orange County, NC July 28 (Haven Wiley).

SHINY COWBIRD: South Carolina had the only reports of this species this summer. A male was at a feeder in Mt. Pleasant July 8 (David Chamberlain) and a flock of seven (one male, six females) was at the Savannah Spoil Site July 18–19 (Paul Sykes, Will Post). This last location has hosted flocks before, suggesting that it is an important area in the control of the spread of this invading species.

ORCHARD ORIOLE: A pair nested successfully at Table Rock St. Pk., SC during June (Scott Stegenga). This was the first nesting record for the park.

RED CROSSBILL: Reports of this species are always noteworthy. This summer's sightings included two at Balsam Gap, Black Mts., NC June 21 and two along NC 128 near Mt. Mitchell June 25 (Marcus Simpson), at least five at Roan Mt., NC June 25 through July (Rick Knight), and three at Cataloochee Ranch, Haywood County, NC July 4 (Wayne Forsythe).

Reviews

Hawk Watch: A Video Guide to Eastern Raptors

Richard K. Walton and Greg Dodge

Brownbag Productions

VHS version copyright 1998

DVD version (remastered and revised) copyright 2003

“Bird!” All eyes turn in the direction of the yell. You pick up a mid-sized brown bird at a range of about 75 yards, flying quickly away from your group. Just about the time you decide it is a hawk of some type, it disappears into a group of trees. “Cooper’s Hawk,” announces the trip leader. How did she do that? As she reviews the points of identification that led her to Cooper’s Hawk, you secretly wish that someone had gotten it on film so you could see it again. Wouldn’t it be great to have a video resource to aid in the identification of raptors in flight?

Hawk Watch: A Video Guide to Eastern Raptors by Richard Walton and Greg Dodge fills this bill nicely. It is the only video guide to eastern raptors currently available, and so is an invaluable resource for anyone wishing to learn to identify the eastern birds of prey in flight. It covers a total of 19 species: the 16 expected eastern raptors, Black and Turkey Vulture, plus the western Swainson’s Hawk, which is seen occasionally during the fall migration. Species occurring in the eastern US but not included in the guide are Snail Kite, Short-tailed Hawk, Gyrfalcon, and Crested Caracara.

The format for the guide is simple: 2 to 3 minutes of video of each species in various situations with a voice-over narration discussing identification strategies. In some cases, both juvenile and adult plumages are illustrated. The narration is clear and accurate. The use of stop-action and slow-motion ensures that the field marks can be clearly seen. Just as in the field, some of the birds appear at considerable distance, while others nearly fill the frame. The quality of the images is quite good. Species are grouped taxonomically in eight categories (vultures, buteos, falcons, etc.), but do not appear in checklist order. Each of these eight groupings is quickly accessible from the main menu, although the search button on most DVD remote controls will work as well. Also included is an “Author’s Note” (3 1/2 pages of text on hawk watching) and a section titled “Resources”, which includes a bibliography containing all the most important reference books on hawk identification, a list of organizations devoted to raptors, a photo of a juvenile Red-tailed Hawk with body regions and field marks labeled, and a two-page glossary. Finally, there is a “Quiz” containing 18 numbered photos with an answer key.

Despite the title, many of the video sequences are not typical “hawk watch” views (i.e., distant specks high overhead). There are numerous eye-level shots and hunting sequences, including a Northern Harrier gliding over a marsh and a Swallow-tailed Kite snatching a nestling mockingbird. The

result is that all birders will benefit from this video, not just those few who frequent the hawk watch sites during the fall migration.

While I find no major flaws in the content of the guide, there are some weak areas. The film sequences of Merlin and Golden Eagle are disappointing. Most of the Merlin shots are of birds flying low to the ground, and with all the clutter (trees, fences, etc.) it is very hard to see the bird. The Golden Eagle sequence is shot almost entirely through an overstory of tree limbs, and the auto-focus camera zeroing in on the limbs frequently leaves the bird out of focus. Also, there is no film of an adult Golden Eagle. The quiz is a “slide show” of 18 still photos (instead of the 23 video clips in the VHS version of the quiz). Many of the photos are of perched birds instead of birds in flight. (So break out the Peterson’s!) Inexplicably, Crested Caracara appears in the quiz, despite its omission from the rest of the guide.

If you already own and use *Hawk Watch* in VHS format, I would recommend upgrading to the DVD version. There is new film footage of seven species, each providing sharper, closer images than in the original version. The new shots of American Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, and Osprey are especially good. Being able to quickly access each of the groups via the menu is a real time saver, although I was disappointed that the species aren’t listed separately, necessitating fast-forwarding through the groups if you are looking for one species in particular. All of the footage appears sharper and brighter, and represents a significant improvement over the VHS version, which in many cases appears murky and colorless. The introduction to the disc, as well as the introductions to each section, now feature close-up video clips of perched birds. These replace the rather amateurish paste-up still images in the VHS version and represent a big improvement in the overall aesthetics of the guide. The buteos are more sensibly arranged, with the rarely seen Rough-legged Hawk appearing at the end of the group rather than between the Broad-winged and Red-tailed as was the case in the VHS edition. The one serious step backward is the “slide show” quiz described above, which is definitely inferior to the video clip quiz in the original VHS version.

Regardless of these minor flaws, *Hawk Watch: A Video Guide to Eastern Raptors* is a must-have for any birder who wants to learn to accurately identify diurnal birds of prey in flight. —Bill Sanderson, Asheville, NC

Shorebirds: A Guide to Shorebirds of Eastern North America

Richard K. Walton and Greg Dodge
Brownbag Productions
DVD version (remastered and revised) copyright 2003

The updated version of *Shorebirds: A Guide to Shorebirds of Eastern North America* shows 38 shorebird species in different plumages and habitats. The video footage would be a great addition to any birdwatcher’s

library. The video in most cases is clear and details are easily seen. A great feature is that we can stop the DVD at any moment to go back and study birds in still pictures. However in more than a few occasions pictures are of too low quality to let us see most of the identification features. Birds are shown mostly feeding with very few pictures of flying individuals. The order in which particular species appear in the video is rather strange; we can see a Dunlin between an American Golden Plover and a Red Knot, and a Ruddy Turnstone is between a Red Knot and a Sanderling. Nevertheless we can see beautiful shots of Pectoral Sandpiper and American Avocet.

The DVD consists of 5 Titles (or if you like chapters). Title 1 is video footage of 38 shorebird species. Title 2 is a general description of distribution, habitats and behavior of the group. Title 3 presents a short but good and clear explanation of plumage change in shorebirds and its consequences for identification. At the end of the Title the authors show a picture of a Pectoral Sandpiper with pointers to the most important plumage areas of the bird. Unfortunately scapulars are referred to here as "shoulders" and the mantle as the actually invisible "back". More detailed explanations would be very useful for better understanding shorebird identification. Title 4 is a quiz where in 13 photographs some 18 species of shorebird should be identified, including 2 species not covered by video footage (Jacana and Curlew Sandpiper). Title 5 shows references, however among very good books listed here, there is one more excellent source of shorebird photographs that is missing: *Waders of the World* by Rosair and Cottridge (Hamlyn).

The video narration consists of description or explanation of species' identification features. Unfortunately in most cases it concentrates mostly on bill shape (or color) and leg color (or length). Information concerning plumage colors and details is very scarce and rather general; detailed identification features are almost completely omitted, suggesting that shorebird identification is mostly about bill and leg length and colors which is absolutely not a truth! Just in a few cases we hear more detailed comments about coloration or different plumages. There is also almost no information concerning upper- or under-wing patterns or tail patterns where these features are essential for identification (Hudsonian Godwit, Black-bellied Plover, Red Knot, Spotted Sandpiper to name a few). For almost all species there are also very long sequences of video pictures lacking any comments, where explanatory words would be very useful. In addition, in a few cases the authors compare and discuss identification of species (such as Semipalmated or Pectoral Sandpiper) showing fall and spring plumages which are very, very unlikely to be seen at the same time! Nevertheless there are rather clear and straightforward comments with good video footage concerning Short- and Long-billed Dowitchers. However even here, the authors pay too much attention to the upper-tail pattern (a typical field guide mistake), which is a very overlapping feature and thus not of much use in the field.

Unfortunately there are two identification mistakes that should be mentioned; an adult fall White-rumped Sandpiper and an almost molted winter adult Hudsonian Godwit are both described as juvenile birds.

In my opinion the updated version of *Shorebirds* could be much more useful for birdwatchers who would like to learn more about identification of that group of birds. However with very short and rather weak comments (mostly only about bill and legs) the video is not very useful for beginning “shorebirdwatchers”. In my opinion to identify most of the shorebirds we need to consider features like size and proportions, plumage and molt details, behavior and vocalization. We are not able to make a positive ID of the bird if we can not name its plumage/age features. On the other hand we can stop the DVD and study good quality pictures for hours, comparing them to comments, illustrations and photographs from numerous books.

I am not able to call the DVD a primary tool for learning shorebird identification. I would rather suggest using it for additional motion pictures when studying good shorebird field guides like *Birds of Europe* by Mullarney et al. or *Shorebirds: An Identification Guide* by Hayman et al. In this time of excellent digital cameras and numerous good sources (books, papers and internet), I expect much more detailed comments and more good quality pictures from a DVD about American shorebirds. —*Michał Skakuj, Durham NC*

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